EAST BAY EXPRESS

HOMELESS ON THE BAY

A growing number of homeless people are taking up illegal residence on off-anchor boats — and some say their presence is causing increased environmental pollution and crime.

By Azeen Ghorayshi

Nearly 5,000 Chickens Rescued .9
But East Bay activists weren't able to save 45,000 hens from the same factory farm.

Lawyer Doctored Evidence? 11
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On the Cover *Andrea Nichols. Photograph by Stephen Loewinsohn*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
Chicana Santeriana Fever

LETTERS

Thanks

Until I retired four years ago, I worked for 36 years in the Public Conservatorship program for Contra Costa County. This article is wonderful. It clearly lays out the inadequacies of the public mental health system and the heartbreak for families. Thank you so much for publishing this important piece.

E.B Friedman, Berkeley

Get Educated

Thank you very much for this excellent article on the horrific situation in these counties related to getting help for our mentally ill loved ones.

Any solutions to the treatment of the mentally ill are as complicated as the brain disease itself, but it doesn't mean we should stop trying to improve the paths to wellness for even some who suffer so profoundly from serious mental illness.

Please continue to educate the community as to our desperate need for funding, for Laura's Law and for forced outpatient treatment.

You may want to look at some of the successful models of treatment — like The Village in Long Beach with Dr. Mark Ragins. Perhaps there are more avenues of support than through the changes of laws — our understanding of the person whose brain gets hijacked by schizophrenia, our understanding of their humanness, how to befriend them as they are — that might help us in the ongoing fight to determine how best to help this population of suffering individuals (and their families).

Gloria Davidson, San Ramon

[illegible] 2/29

Withering — or Evolving?

I enjoyed reading this article, as I've enjoyed reading much of Rachel Swan's great coverage of the East Bay's art and music scenes. (I've also enjoyed her indulgence in puns — a recent favorite of mine is the headline "Fishbone Out of Water.")

However, I thought I'd be remiss if I didn't write to challenge her assumption that the Oakland blog scene is in decline. Yes, it's true that many of the blogs she writes about in her piece aren't being as actively updated as much as they were a year ago, but in the last several months, I've seen a resurgence of Oakland culture and politics blogs, including 98thNotes.com, OGFenn.Wordpress.com, TheDoctrinaire.Webs.com and my own blog, DJMattWerner.Blogspot.com, to name a few.

Mark Werner, Oakland

Occupy Is Just Getting Started

It's amazing how much cycling has improved in the Bay Area as a result of the two divergent tactics employed back in the Nineties:

1. Volunteer staffing of design and outreach committees through organizations such as the Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition, East Bay Bike Coalition and San Francisco Bike Coalition in cooperation with regional and city government.

2. Critical mass. Remember the response when then Mayor Willie Brown threatened Critical Mass? The event set a massive attendance record, more than 200 hundred were arrested, and Bay Area bike activism gained international exposure.

Multiple approaches to solving big problems are important. Occupy is just getting started ...

Vinne Rubino, Seoul, South Korea

[illegible] Full Disclosure 2/8

Nothing New

Well, since what he's proposing is merely to restore the sales tax to what it was before June of last year, this histrionic response seems a bit much.

We've been paying astronomical sales taxes all our bleepin' lives here, and I don't see that changing — though I do see the good citizens of Livermore getting a bit testy at the suggestion they should forgo their BART station after half a century of paying sales taxes for it, as it were.

The other thing, of course, is that the citizenry had already worked out a perfectly good fix for the regressive sales tax. They bought from Amazon. But noooooo ...

Mary Eisenhart, Oakland

Hayward and San Leandro: Cities of Hidden Tre[illegible]

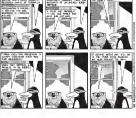
San Leandro Love

I took great interest in this article because I was born and raised in San Leandro. I must say I was very, very pleased with your write-up.

I no longer live in San Leandro — I live in the valley (like most of us now), but I will always consider San Leandro home. You hit the nail on the head with Drake's, Paradise, and Boulevard Burger. These spots can rival anyone, and I mean anyone — and only charge a fraction of what their competition does. I'm not just saying this because I'm from San Leandro but because I am a big-time craft beer and food enthusiast.

I was so very proud reading your article.

James Conan Gong, Dublin



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by TOM TOMORROW
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EAST BAY EXPRESS

Dumbfounded and Disappointed

This piece was a while ago but I just read it. A friend gave it to me because he could not believe what he'd read. And now I can say "me too." I was dumbfounded by the fact that the author and the *Express* believed that this was a story worth telling. I did not see anything compelling about Rob Collins' story, especially when the author seeks — in his subtitle — to portray Collins as the "real deal" in contrast to what appears to be some type of dig at Coach Ken Carter. Collins doesn't come close to matching Coach Carter as a coach in Richmond for a number of reasons.

Collins appeared to be all about himself as amply displayed when he left his team after one season for greener pastures — i.e., big budgets and luxury buses. What type of coach does this (after one season) to kids who — as mentioned in the article — come from rough circumstances where adults are constantly abandoning them? Of course, careerism and ambition are not necessarily bad options to pursue. However, as one reads the article, Collins' decision plays into a larger narrative that does not support the savior plot that author Paul Gackle sought to construct. Collins' motives were different than Coach Carter's. Carter was on a mission that went beyond basketball. He conveyed values and principles that put academics front-and-center, not basketball (hence the infamous gym lockout), unlike Collins. And he did it in the midst of tremendous backlash from school administrators and parents. Moreover, Gackle tries to convince the reader to believe that a white coach working amongst a predominately black and Latino team is a rare and high virtue — the proverbial "white shadow," the paternalistic hero. White coaches at urban schools are nothing new. They are a dime a dozen. In sports, kids and coaches can care less about race. A true coach will go to Iraq if there is an opportunity to pursue his or her craft and a kid will let a Martian coach them if they can help the team win.

What I found most interesting was the double standard of appropriateness that Gackle draws between urban and suburban communities. Collins was rejected from suburban schools on two occasions, but Gackle felt compelled to recast Mr. Collins' run-ins with suburban high school parents and administrators as an overreaction based on their middle-class uppityness and high expectations, rather than seeing them as consequences of inappropriate behavior on Collins' part (throwing chairs, using foul language). Then, Gackle takes it even further by suggesting that Collins' behavior was more of a fit for urban youth. He essentially implied that Collins' style was more suitable for Richmond's urban athletes because of the poor environment! This absolutely speaks to low expectations that writers — like Gackle — have of urban youth and their future. Essentially, through the lens of Mr. Gackle, a mainstream reject like Mr. Collins is perfectly suited for the socially dysfunctional environment of Richmond. I simply do not know what Mr. Gackle was thinking when he decided to write this article about Coach Collins. Moreover, I do not understand why he felt compelled to discredit Coach Carter by pointing out that some of the stories in the film was inflated or overblown. Really? When has Hollywood not exercised its license to embellish a story? In a city like Richmond where young black and Latino males have few role models and heroes, it is too bad that Mr. Gackle felt compelled to muddy Coach Carter's great work. In comparison to Coach Carter, Collins is not a role model. He is unaccomplished, he is an unfinished story. Is this what these kids need? Apparently, Gackle felt like there was a redemption story in progress with Collins. But it appears that Collins needs these kids more than they need him. I have higher expectations of the *Express*.

Ahmad Mansur, Oakland

From Fukushima to the US?

March 11 marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan.

The accident at the Fukushima plant has had profound and long-lasting public health, environmental, quality-of-life, and economic consequences for tens of thousands of Japanese citizens.

What happened at Fukushima can happen in the United States.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is the federal agency responsible for nuclear safety in the United States. The president and Congress oversee the NRC and are responsible for making nuclear power in this country safer and for preventing a nuclear disaster from happening here.

The NRC, President Obama, and Congress are not addressing critical nuclear power safety concerns with any sense of urgency or leadership.

The NRC should reduce the risks associated with how spent radioactive nuclear fuel is stored after it is no longer being used for producing electricity by requiring that it be stored in much safer dry casks once it has sufficiently cooled. It should also enforce its existing regulations like fire protection regulations. Today, more than 45 nuclear plants do not comply with fire protection regulations first adopted in 1980.

Alice Miles, Oakland

Corrections

In the March 7 installment of our What the Fork column, "Gluten-Free and Bike-Delivered," we misstated that Nikoefer took over as chef at Blue Oak Café after Robert Dorsey's departure. In fact, she took over as manager.

In our March 7 news story, "Will Occupy Oakland Embrace Strategic Nonviolence?," we got Nichola Torbett's surname wrong.

The February 29 installment of our What the Fork column, "Food for Thought," mistakenly referred to Cather as a vegetarian restaurant. It also serves meat.

In our February 29 corrections section (yikes), we incorrectly implied that the Shotgun Players had not staged a production of *The Miser* in 2004, when in fact they did. ●

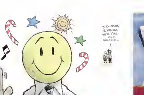
Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

DEFENDING DESLEY

Ignacio De La Fuente, onetime enemy of Desley Brooks, is now one of her staunchest supporters. Oh yeah, he's running for mayor, too.

By Robert Gammon


I DUNNO, I KINDA MISS THE OLD IGNACIO...
2012
DeFreitas

Throughout much of the past decade, Councilmembers **Ignacio De La Fuente** and **Desley Brooks** were bitter political foes. The two occasionally traded allegations of corruption and tried to oust each other from office by backing opposing candidates. But over the past year or two, the De La Fuente-Brooks feud has thawed considerably. Then last week, the onetime enemies engaged in what amounted to a public lovefest as De La Fuente rushed to Brooks' defense after she was implicated in political wrongdoing.

At one point during last week's council meeting, after Brooks' questionable involvement in a swanky new teen center underwent a detailed public airing, De La Fuente remarked that the council had "wasted close to three hours" on the matter. He then tried to block an attempt by City Administrator **Deanna Santana** and Councilwoman **Libby Schaaf** to slash funding for Brooks' teen center in light of the fact that the city is nearly broke. He also downplayed charges that Brooks had violated Oakland's separation-of-powers laws that forbid councilmembers from interfering with city staff members and launching and operating their own government programs — as Brooks had allegedly done with the teen center. "I think all of us at one time or another tried to tell staff what to do," De La Fuente said after announcing that he would oppose any attempts by the city to hire an independent investigator to examine Brooks' actions.

But De La Fuente wasn't done. He also had no problem with Brooks' refusal to recuse herself from voting on whether Santana should continue her probe of the matter — even though Oakland's City Attorney's Office repeatedly said that Santana had already uncovered troubling evidence about Brooks and that the councilwoman had a conflict of interest. "There are potential facts including some that have already been disclosed that could illustrate — that could demonstrate — that there's been a violation of [city] charter provisions ... where there could be penalties or financial implications for you — that's a conflict of interest for you," Chief Assistant City Attorney **Doryanna Moreno** explained to Brooks, telling her repeatedly that she should recuse herself.

But De La Fuente, whom for years could not hide his intense hostility for Brooks and would have loved nothing more than for her to be roasted publicly for as long as possible, instead completely brushed off Moreno. In the end, Brooks said she had to go to the bathroom and missed the vote, but De La Fuente's actions had some of his most ardent supporters scratching their heads. Even *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist **Chip Johnson**, whose unflagging public admiration for De La Fuente has lasted for more than a decade, publicly called out the councilman in a column last Friday saying that De La Fuente's actions, along with several other councilmembers (including **Jane Brunner**), who made excuses for Brooks were "cowardly, irresponsible and loathsome."

So what happened? De La Fuente's change of heart toward Brooks appears to have begun as early as two years ago. In the spring of 2010, the two councilmembers, who often had disagreed on matters large and small, found themselves on the same side of a controversial issue. Both openly declared that the city should lay off police officers if the police union refused to pay into its pension plan. In fact, De La Fuente and Brooks became the leading voices for laying off cops, and eventually paved the way for the city to slash eighty police positions.

De La Fuente and Brooks then found more common ground over the past year in their mutual dislike for Mayor **Jean Quan**. Both have emerged as leading critics of the mayor, especially on her handling of **Occupy Oakland**. De La Fuente, in particular, has repeatedly harangued Quan for not cracking down more swiftly and more forcefully against the Occupy movement.

And finally, there's this: De La Fuente declared last week that he plans to run for mayor if there's a recall election this year. In other words, if he's going to get more than the 30 percent of the vote he received when he ran in 2006, he needs as many supporters as possible — and he needs to turn as many enemies as he can into friends. That's particularly true with Oakland's black community, which traditionally has opposed him. With his unwavering defense of Brooks last week, De La Fuente might have thawed that relationship, too. But will he lose some of his traditional support in the process?

Coliseum City

Notwithstanding the Brooks matter, the Oakland council made the right call last week to move forward with the **Coliseum City** project, a proposed privately financed development that could provide new homes for the A's, the **Raiders**, and the **Warriors** amid a large retail, housing, and entertainment district. Although it's a long shot as to whether Coliseum City will ever get built, the project may represent the only hope Oakland has at keeping its sports teams. Indeed, without Coliseum City, Oakland may lose all three.

For starters, even if Major League Baseball blocks the proposal by Oakland A's co-owners **Lew Wolff** and **John Fisher** to move their team to San Jose, the two have made it clear that they don't want to be in Oakland. As such, they might attempt to move the team out of the Bay Area or sell it. Or the league may simply choose to dissolve the A's as a franchise. These scenarios, however, would be made less likely if Oakland can get a private developer to build Coliseum City. A new ballpark for the A's would be a big attraction for anyone interested in buying the team and keeping it in Oakland and would make the league think twice about contracting the franchise.

The Raiders, meanwhile, look to be a prime candidate for one of the new planned football stadiums in Los Angeles. The National Football League is mulling two stadium proposals in LA — including one at LA Live (the development that Coliseum City is modeled after) — and plans to select one that would house two teams. Since Los Angeles has no teams now, and the league has shown no interest in adding new franchises, then two teams would need to move there. The Raiders are among the teams rumored to be on the list, along with the San Diego Chargers and the St. Louis Rams.

As for the Warriors, they're perhaps the most important of the three pro sports teams in Oakland. In fact, Oakland has proven over the years to be a basketball town. The Warriors have consistently sold out the Arena, even when they've had terrible teams. That hasn't been the case with the A's and Raiders.

But as popular as the Warriors are in Oakland, the team has never returned that love. The franchise still refuses to put Oakland in its name. Moreover, the Warriors seem genuinely interested in the possibility of a new home in San Francisco near AT&T Park. Indeed, if Coliseum City is not built, the Warriors seem destined to go back across the bay. ■

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

A groovy Seventies-style dispensary serves Cannabis Cup-winning cuts in the underdog town of Vallejo

By David Downs

Bob Ross, the famous oil painter who loved landscapes and had a PBS show before dying of lymphoma in 1994, was known for his "happy little trees." A master of the quick, "wet-on-wet" technique, Ross made $15 million selling art supplies related to his cheesy, relentlessly upbeat show *The Joy of Painting*. A former Air Force sergeant, Ross hated all the yelling he did in the service, and painting oil landscapes was his escape — a world, he said, he could make "as happy as I want it."

Happy Lil Trees is also the name of a two-time *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup-winning dispensary in the rough and tumble town of Vallejo — where people clearly can't make the world as happy as they want.

On a recent visit to the corner of Redwood Street and Sonoma Boulevard, a large American flag blew against a gray, angry sky. Weeds had retaken the cracked, eroding sidewalks and litter floated across the pot-holed parking lot. At the base of the US flag, a green cross was affixed to a white cinderblock building with mirrored double doors.

Avoiding the approaching winter storm, we stepped inside into a warm, dark, groovy den resembling *That 70's Show*, complete with fake wood paneling, stained blue carpet, Bob Marley playing on the radio, and the pungent, inviting smell of freshly cured chronic.

The low-profile club eschews press and declined interview requests, but new collective members need to simply present state identification and a valid doctor's recommendation. Happy Lil Trees verifies on site before a new patient can join the collective, but afterward, we got a warm, personal introduction to staffer Theo, who was casually dressed with dreads, and wore a super-friendly smile. He ushered us in, past the locked door to ganja nirvana.

Happy Lil Tree's medium-size main room has the most profound, fresh-weed stank of any dispensary we've been to. There were clones on the right and edibles, concentrates and flowers on the left as Theo walked us through the dispensary's unique five-gram eighths, which can total $67 with taxes for top-shelf strains. It's a connoisseur's top-shelf, too.

Happy Lil Trees has more than fifty strains representing some of California's best pot. The club's energetic "Sonoma Coma" took first place in the sativa category last month in *High Times*' Los Angeles Medical Cannabis Cup, and took third in the 2011 San Francisco Cup. Astonishingly, Theo had some in stock.

Budtenders meanwhile were letting patients inspect and smell big Mason jars of each cut, creating a laid-back, comfortable vibe. Lil Wayne played on the radio, and dudes chatted behind the counter with the manager sitting in a corner behind a desk.

We stuck our heads into a fresh turkey bag of the Cup winner, noting the massive tropical fruit notes of mango and pineapple, with a huge body that is more pronounced when ground. Pot treats nausea, muscle spasms, and neuropathic pain of course, but Sonoma Coma's unique sativa effects melt stress without sedation. It's a two-day yoga retreat in a bag.

The Blue Fire AAA — a re-cross of Blue Dream (Blueberry and Haze) and Blueberry — looked and smelled just as enticing. Ditto for the Tangerine Dream (Tangerine Kush and Blue Dream) and the Louis XVIII. All the greats were there, too: Ken's GDP, Super Jack, L.A. Confidential, Blackberry Kush, Purple Nepal. We also came across something called R2D2 — a mix of Purple Kush and Hawaiian Skunk.

Happy Lil Trees might not look like much, but the club's got it where it counts. We'll be back the next time we're passing through on Highway 80.

The future of Happy Lil Trees, however, just got less sunny. Across town on the day we visited, Matthew Shotwell, owner of Greenwell Cooperative, sat in Solano County Jail on drug charges, his club raided by the multiple agencies. Masked, gun-toting DEA agents held Shotwell's staff and patients for hours before letting them go.

On March 1, authorities also hit Better Health Group and its head Jorge Espinoza. Both Shotwell and Espinoza were vocal proponents of Measure C — a 10-percent tax on marijuana sales in Vallejo that 76 percent of voters passed in 2011. Regulation of Vallejo's 25 or so clubs was to follow, but never did, because of the federal crackdown and legal ambiguity from state appellate courts. The tax begins March 1, with the first payment due by April 20. Revenues could reportedly total $540,000 in 2012.

And Vallejo needs it. In 2008, the city became the largest in California history to declare bankruptcy, laying off 60 of its 155 cops according to reports. Prostitutes from all over the West descended on the former state capital in 2011, spawning "squat brothels" in foreclosed homes and pimp fights on citizens' lawns. Vallejoans have since gotten a handle on the problem and have turned to dispensaries for an infusion of tax revenue.

But without local regulations, some clubs are generating complaints, Vallejo Police Lieutenant Ken Weaver told Bay City News. "We're taking a more aggressive approach," he said.

Vallejo also is under the jurisdiction of Benjamin Wagner, US attorney for the Eastern District of California. Wagner said on February 28 that the four-month old war on dispensaries would go on. He has threatened a number of dispensary landlords in the Eastern District with forfeiture and initiated civil proceedings against a permitted club in Sacramento.

As for Happy Lil Trees, it has created a safe, professional place with nice people, nice prices and really nice cannabis. We can only hope its groovy, Bob Ross-vibes are never quashed.

"I can make this world as happy as I want it," Ross once said. "Shoot, if you want bad stuff, watch the news." ■

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Animal Place

Oakland resident Dana Portney helped lead the rescue effort.

ECO WATCH

NEARLY 5,000 CHICKENS RESCUED FROM FACTORY FARM

But East Bay activists weren't able to save 45,000 hens

By Alastair Bland

When East Bay activists learned that 5,000 chickens were on the verge of dying at an abandoned factory farm in Turlock, they rushed to Stanislaus County. The rescue effort got underway in full force on February 23 after a citizen phone call to the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency had led officials to the site of A&L Poultry, where approximately 50,000 egg-laying hens had gone without food or proper care for about two weeks. Roughly one-third of the chickens were dead by the time help arrived, while the rest were on the verge of perishing.

"If that anonymous tip hadn't come in, all of them would have been dead," said Dana Portney, an Oakland resident who has been volunteering for six years with Animal Place, a farm animal sanctuary in Grass Valley that helped coordinate the chicken rescue.

Officials with the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency first arrived on February 21, and though the birds were plainly distressed and starving, legal issues blocked volunteers and officials from extracting the hens immediately. "Some of the rescuers made a stink about how we were letting the chickens starve," said Annette Patton, executive director of the agency. "But there's no way you can just drive up to a farm and start stealing chickens. The birds were someone's property." But Patton was also distraught by the scene and said, "It's unspeakable to the volume of deceased animals we found."

Portney said it wasn't until February 23 that officials began passing injured and starving birds out of the defunct farm to waiting volunteers. Only state and county officials were allowed inside the building, where the hens had been living in "battery cages." The cramped quarters frequently cited by critics as one of the cruelest common features of factory farming.

The farm's owner, Andy Keung Cheung, had abandoned his animals because he could no longer afford to feed them. Keung Cheung's attorney, Martha Carlton-Magaña, said in a statement that "an attempt to arrange for delivery of the chickens to a third party in order to avoid the usual business practice of euthanizing the chickens resulted in an unacceptable situation. A&L Poultry did not intend, and profoundly regrets." Carlton-Magaña said in an interview that the third party failed to meet an agreement and remove the chickens from the farm.

When officials entered the farm, 17,000 hens were already dead in their cages, and nearly all the rest were emaciated and close to death. A number of hens had managed to escape their cages, but then drowned in a manure catchment basin, according to Christine Morrissey, the founder of the Stockton-based rescue center Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, where about two-dozen birds were brought for recovery.

The majority of the 4,600 rescued chickens are currently housed at a shelter in Vacaville operated by Animal Place and will eventually be put up for adoption. The effort is being hailed as the single largest mass rescue of farm animals in state history.

But nearly 30,000 chickens were euthanized, bringing the death toll to about 45,000 hens, and local activists have been collecting signatures in support of a bid to urge Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager to prosecute Keung Cheung. As of late last week, the district attorney's office said it could not comment on the case because it was waiting for reports and information from the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency.

Patton said she hopes the district attorney will take action. "It's our allegation that [Keung Cheung] broke the law," she said. Specifically, he may have violated California Penal Code 597, which states that "every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures or wounds a living animal or maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment."

But some are concerned that Keung Cheung may only get a slap on the wrist. "Unfortunately the law isn't as clear when it comes to farm animals as it is with dogs and cats and other pets," said Anne Martin, an Oakland resident and a lead volunteer with Harvest Home. "If he can say that what he did was standard farm practice, then he may be off the hook."

Shari Campbell, president of the Oakland-based group United for Animals, said the starvation of the birds could have been easily avoided. "All [Keung Cheung] had to do was make a phone call to the Animal Services Agency or the Sheriff's Department, rather than just leave them to starve," she said. "Or Harvest Home or Animal Place certainly would have stepped in."

The conditions uncovered by local activists at A&L Poultry bring to the spotlight the ethical issues surrounding factory farming of eggs and other animal products. Kim Sturla, the executive director of Animal Place, noted that factory farming practices tend to be well concealed from the public, making cases like the A&L Poultry rescue not only shocking, but also educationally valuable.

"For us, cases like these serve as a platform to educate the public about egg farming," Sturla said. Standard practice in the chicken egg industry is to clip off the beaks of newly hatched females, while the males are killed and disposed of. "The birds are then crammed into cages and they're shitting on top of each other," Sturla noted. "The odor is unimaginable, and the only substrate they stand on is wire. Their lives are horrific from the moment they hatch from the egg. It's beyond cruelty."

Even farms billed as "free-range" tend to produce comparable suffering in similar conditions, according to critics. Many people now tout "pasture-raised eggs" as the highest standard in commercial egg production.

The 50,000 hens that inhabited A&L Poultry were just a slight fraction of the national population of egg-laying hens. According to the US Department of Agriculture, 281 million egg-laying hens were living on farms nationwide in 2010, and many millions more chickens are raised and killed for meat every day. In California, 19 million hens produce 5 billion eggs annually for human consumption. Iowa ranked first nationwide in 2010 with 51 million egg-laying hens. The vast majority live in overcrowded battery cages.

But Proposition 2, passed by voters in 2008, will take effect in 2015 and impose requirements that farmers provide relatively spacious conditions for their hens — enough room, anyway, for them to stretch, stand up, and turn around. In spite of such improvements, millions of chickens will remain the engine of a massive egg industry. Campbell with United for Animals is a vegan, as are many who assisted in the hen rescue. She believes that only a transition away from egg consumption can alleviate the suffering inherent to egg farming. "Even vegetarians who eat eggs are contributing to animal death," she said, noting that male chicks at egg "hatcheries" are killed immediately after birth.

Anyone who applies to adopt any of the rescued birds will be carefully screened, Sturla said, to avoid placing the chickens back into the hands of commercial interests. "We don't mind if people eat the eggs," she said. "We just don't want them adopting the chickens for that purpose. We want them to be pets." ●

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NEWS

HAYASHI'S HOUSE RAISES ETHICAL QUESTIONS

Financial disclosures reveal that the embattled Assemblywoman rents one of her homes to her employee

By Steven Tavares

Mary Hayashi

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi's home high in the Castro Valley hills, offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire East Bay. Except it's not Hayashi enjoying the view, but two close colleagues who both earn lucrative state-funded salaries. According to recently released public finance records, Hayashi rents the four-bedroom, three-bath townhouse, assessed at around $900,000, to the chancellor of Chabot College Joel Kinnamon, and his longtime partner Christopher Parman, who also is Hayashi's district coordinator. While the deal may be legal, it raises ethical questions surrounding a member of the Assembly also acting as a landlord to her subordinate and a prominent academic administrator within her district. Between them, Kinnamon and Parman, who are legally married, take home nearly $400,000 annually in taxpayer money — a portion of which then goes to Hayashi in the form of rent.

As such, the disclosure raises new questions for the embattled Assemblywoman, who has been under fire since she was arrested last fall for shoplifting at Neiman Marcus in San Francisco. In her most recent statement of economic interests, Hayashi disclosed that she owns the 1,887-square-foot residence at 18410 Buren Place in Castro Valley's Palomares Hills development, and that she collected $10,000 to $100,000 annually in rent from the property (state law does not require her to be more specific) last year from Kinnamon. Homes in that area typically rent for about $2,500 a month, according to Zillow.com.

Kinnamon's name also showed up on Hayashi's disclosure form from the year before as the renter of the same parcel, and the form notes that the arrangement began in February 2010. While Parman's name is not listed in either document, his marriage to Kinnamon is well known in East Bay political circles. Although nobody answered the door last week, a next-door neighbor confirmed that two men currently live in the house. Hayashi's offices in Sacramento and Hayward declined to comment for this story, as did Kinnamon.

Hayashi and her husband, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Dennis Hayashi, purchased the home in 2004 for $698,000 before moving to the Stonebrae development in the Hayward hills. According to Zillow.com, the Hayashis put their Castro Valley home occupied by Kinnamon and Parman on the market for $499,950 on October 29, 2011 — just four days after Hayashi was arrested for shoplifting. The Hayashis then took the house off the market less than two months later.

In addition to questions surrounding Mary Hayashi's decision to rent her home to a subordinate and his partner, it's unclear why two well-paid government employees would rent a somewhat mundane home (albeit with a killer view) in the first place. Kinnamon, as chancellor of Chabot College in Hayward, earned more than $317,000 in salary and benefits in 2010 after receiving a $16,000 raise, in addition to $18,000 in tax-sheltered annuities the same year, according to the *Sacramento Bee*. As Hayashi's go-to guy in Hayward, Parman received a salary of $82,400 last year, according to an Assembly salary database of lawmakers and their staffs.

There is nothing in the Political Reform Act of 1974 that prohibits Assembly members from being a landlord to a member of her staff, said Tara Stock of the Fair Political Practices Commission. "A person who pays rent to a public official is considered a source of income, so a public official may be required to recuse themselves from a decision involving a source of income," Stock said. However, if a landlord offers a public official rent at a lower rate, the discount could be construed as a gift to the public official. The annual gift limit from a single source is currently $420, she said.

That being said, the arrangement among Kinnamon, Parman, and Hayashi raises more questions of potential impropriety for the Assemblywoman. Common practice dictates a separation between business at work and personal financial business between boss and employee. A landlord-tenant/boss-employee relationship, for example, runs the risk of being manipulated by the superior in various ways, such as a quid pro quo for extra work done in exchange for favorable rent. It also could foster a situation where the employee's silence while witnessing wrongdoing is a prerequisite for continuing the business relationship — in this case, continued residence at her rental home. Or it could become an instrument for a public official to funnel taxpayer funds through an employee to her own personal coffers in the form of rent payments.

Ironically, Hayashi recently offered seemingly innocuous legislation in the Assembly making it easier for the public to access lawmakers' financial reports. Her bill AB 1500 specified that city and county clerks place a notification on their websites alerting residents that a copy of the disclosure form is available for their perusal, along with a link leading them to the document online.

In Hayashi's case, her disclosure form looks innocent enough. Indeed, if you don't know who Kinnamon and Parman are in relation to Hayashi, the documents appear to be nothing more than a couple of sheets of disclosures that include thank-you flowers, worth $90, from local labor union members. ●

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CASTLEWOOD LAWYER DOCTORED EVIDENCE?

The attorney for the upscale Pleasanton country club that locked out its workers is now on the hot seat.

By Rachel Swan

If there's one area in which Occupy Oakland excels, it's bringing sex appeal to seemingly dry populist issues — like fair wages and labor laws. A couple weeks ago the movement cast its eye toward a protracted dispute between workers and management at Pleasanton's Castlewood Country Club, which, it turned out, served as a perfect allegory of the One Percent attacking the little guy. In fact, it's even more perfect than occupiers might have anticipated: Court documents suggest that one of Castlewood's lawyers doctored evidence in the case so the country club wouldn't have to pay locked-out workers at least $1.7 million in back pay.

The fight actually started two years ago, when Castlewood locked out staff members following a dispute over health care — the club's new contract demanded hefty contributions from employees who'd previously received it for free. The new fees were $366.93 for single policies per month and $739.08 for families. The conflict remains unresolved and Castlewood has hired a full "replacement" staff while locked-out workers continue to picket every day. By the time Occupy Oakland got involved, the country club had already tried a series of tactics that could be deemed "coercive," including allegedly pressuring workers to decertify their union.

Now a new wrinkle has appeared, and it can only add fuel to fire. On March 1, Administrative Law Judge Clifford Anderson wrapped up a hearing for a complaint that the National Labor Relations Board had issued against Castlewood alleging that the lockout was unlawful. It actually isn't illegal to lock out workers to goad them into submission after a contract dispute, but certain changes that Castlewood allegedly was proposing — like trying to abrogate the country club's seniority system and making union membership optional, rather than mandatory — showed that Castlewood wasn't just trying to win a fight over health care. It appears that it was trying to destroy the union, and replace a full staff of bartenders, janitors, and kitchen helpers with people who will do the same job at a lower price. And union reps say the country club has been obfuscating those intentions.

Now the union has evidence that Castlewood's lawyer Robert Hulteng of the notoriously anti-union firm Littler Mendelson tampered with evidence in the case. During the NLRB hearing last month, both Hulteng and UNITE HERE Local 2850 rep Sarah Norr were called as witnesses and asked to submit their notes from two bargaining sessions — one in August 2010 and one in November 2010. Norr's notes were typed; Hulteng's were handwritten, because, he argued, it's extremely difficult to hold forth at a negotiating table and type notes at the same time.

Yet the two sets of notes differed significantly — not only in their level of detail, but also in terms of critical statements made at the sessions. Norr's record stated that Castlewood wanted to make proposals that had nothing to do with health care — that club managers wanted the freedom to dismiss locked-out workers and replace them with new non-unionized employees who were cheaper and allegedly more efficient. Norr's August 10, 2010 transcript, obtained by the *Express*, quoted Hulteng saying as much: "While having a labor dispute is never pleasant, they've [club managers] concluded that the people they have working here now have convinced the [club's] members that they're getting superior service now," he said. "This is a very strong feeling among the members. The [club's] Board has to speak for the members and they believe that they are."

Hulteng's statements were pivotal because they provided further evidence that Castlewood was engaging in unfair labor practices in violation of federal law. In fact, the union filed unfair labor practices charges against Castlewood with the NLRB in October 2010, which then launched an official investigation in August of the next year.

But when Hulteng presented his notes to the judge last month, they were much different from Norr's and have him speaking more innocuously at the August 10, 2010 bargaining session: "We do believe strongly in our position, in part because members believe service has been sometimes superior during lockout," he wrote. He'd also specified that "locked out ees will come back" ("ees" is short for "employees"). Such statements would lead a judge to conclude that Castlewood ultimately intended to rehire its locked-out workers, instead of replacing them, and thus was not engaging in unfair labor practices.

The discrepancy between Norr's and Hulteng's notes raised alarm bells for union attorney Kristin Martin. She suspected that the Castlewood lawyer had changed his official August 10, 2010 transcript after the fact to make his own statements seem more benign. Martin also noticed that certain lines of Hulteng's notes had been written in a different type of ink. Hulteng had already testified under oath that he doesn't usually make such alterations to his notes. When Judge Anderson buttonholed the Castlewood lawyer about his note-taking practices at the February 3 hearing, Hulteng vehemently defended them. "If I do [make changes] it's always within minutes after it was said, so it's usually pretty fresh," Hulteng said, according to a court transcript.

But in this case, though, Hulteng had gone against his own practice. That became abundantly clear after UNITE HERE sent his notes to a forensics expert. The results, obtained from a microscopic examination and released on February 12, showed that Hulteng had indeed amended his notes, mostly with modifying words — the word "sometimes" was a later addition, as was the phrase "open to discuss" and "open to ideas." More damning, however, was the added phrase "locked out ees will come back," which Martin noted changed the whole sentiment of Castlewood's proposal. Norr's notes had Hulteng saying that the club wanted to pick and choose which employees it would rehire. Hulteng's newly revised notes said that all of them will ultimately come back.

Locked-out workers have been picketing Castlewood for two years.

Brooke Anderson

But then after the NLRB hearing on February 3, 2012, Hulteng suddenly remembered that he had, in fact, amended his notes "at a date subsequent to August 10 [2010]," as he wrote later in a letter to Judge Anderson. He said that on November 9, 2010 — three months after the bargaining session, and after the union had filed unfair labor practices charges — he added phrases to the August 10 notes. November 9, 2010 was the day that UNITE HERE Local 2850 president Wei-Ling Huber read back the union's understanding of Castlewood's proposal: that the club wanted to eliminate seniority as a basis for hires and layoffs, and that the club wanted the liberty of replacing locked-out workers with temps. Hulteng evidently realized upon reflection that he actually wanted the tenor of his statements to be a little more — well, legal. "I went back during the November meeting and added three phrases to my notes from the prior meeting," Hulteng said in a phone interview last Friday.

THE COUNTRY CLUB'S LAWYER, ROBERT HULTENG, ADMITTED THAT HE ALTERED HIS OFFICIAL NOTES AFTER THE UNION FILED UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES CHARGES WITH THE NLRB AGAINST CASTLEWOOD.

But here's the rub: Hulteng had already testified under oath that he seldom, if ever, changes his notes, and that if he were to do such a thing, it would happen immediately after the bargaining session — not three months later. While he insists that the edits were made merely for sake of clarity and were consistent with his recollection of the August 10, 2010 bargaining session, Martin thinks otherwise. She says the edits were willful. She argues, furthermore, that Hulteng's changes serve to purposefully conceal Castlewood's intentions.

On February 9 — three days before the forensics report came out — Hulteng wrote a letter to Judge Anderson in which he essentially confirmed all of Martin's charges, but also tried to undermine them. "The added phrases are consistent with my recollection of the August 10 bargaining session, and were added for the purpose of making sure that the notes captured statements made at the bargaining table," he wrote. To Martin and the union reps, it read like a form of damage control. It also appeared that Hulteng had admitted to what could be construed as a serious act of misconduct — that he doctored evidence in order to justify the continued lockout of low-wage workers.

Whether Hulteng will face any punitive measures remains unclear. Martin didn't see it as her duty to report an act of ethical misconduct to the state bar. She said that Judge Anderson has the power to refer Hulteng to an investigating officer of the general counsel of the NLRB, which can in turn institute disciplinary proceedings. But at this point it seems unlikely that any such proceedings will take place. That said, the new development in the case provides more evidence of the lengths to which Castlewood has gone to defeat its union and to avoid paying millions of dollars in restitution. Anderson is expected to issue a written decision in May, and if he rules in the union's favor, then the NLRB could request more than two years' worth of worker back pay. Protesters regaled club management with a fake $1.7 million check in September, but Norr said the actual amount could be greater — depending on how long the case languishes in court. ●

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Spencer Mills (@OakFoSho) says some activists really dislike his livestreaming.

NEWS

SEE NO EVIL?

Livestreamers have been a critical part of Occupy Oakland's development — but now some activists argue that they're a threat to the movement.

By Ellen Cushing

When Spencer Mills hooked his iPhone up to a livestreaming app and began documenting the events of the November 2 General Strike, he never could've expected what would happen: that the night would present a pivotal moment for Occupy Oakland; that after the end of the 11 o'clock news, he would be the only live source of information as to what was happening; that his livestreams would later become a crucial source of information for occupiers, media, and police alike; that he himself would soon become something of a folk hero among both occupiers and observers; or that he would later be accused of undermining the movement merely by documenting it.

Mills, who may be better known by his Twitter handle, @OakFoSho, is but one of the hundreds of people nationwide who have been documenting local Occupy actions live on the web — and who are increasingly finding themselves caught in the middle of a growing dispute between those who argue that Occupy can't exist without transparency and those who argue that livestreamers put protesters at risk and threaten the movement at large by filming civil disobedience and property destruction. "There are people out there that really dislike what I do," Mills said. "I'm very aware of that."

In January, at a march near the original Occupy Wall Street encampment in lower Manhattan, Tim Pool, a well-known livestreamer who has been documenting the movement since its inception, was assaulted and threatened by a masked attacker; back in November, Pool was also confronted while filming a group of protesters taking the air out of police-cruiser tires. On January 28, the livestreamer known as Occupy Freedom LA had her camera stolen in Oakland in what may have been a targeted assault. And while Mills hasn't been physically assaulted, he and some of his peers have received threats of physical violence, and that he has been accused on multiple occasions, in person and online, of "snitching."

It's an odd mantle to carry for someone who said he identifies with many of Occupy's tenets, and who began livestreaming as a means of holding the police accountable and acting as an antidote to what he saw as the mainstream media's tendency toward spin. It's also an ironic turn of events for a movement that was founded in part as a reaction to government and corporate secrecy — and which arguably would never have come to international attention without livestreamers.

"What livestreamers everywhere are doing is showing people who are geographically separate what the greater movement is looking like," said Nick Baban, who streams, tweets, and blogs under the name Oaktown Pirate, and who regularly gets visitors to his site from places like Egypt, India, and Scotland. "It gives people the ability to see in real time what similarly minded people all over the world are doing — and that's what makes this an international movement."

But it's a double-edged sword, and Occupy inhabits a terrain that no other major activist movement in history has had to contend with. "To be able to collect information from myriad different sources is a boon for the news consumer," said Rebecca Jeschke, who works with issues at the intersection of technology, privacy, and freedom in her capacity as media relations director and digital rights analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "But the thing about livestreaming is, once you start, you can't control who sees it."

And even if, as livestreamer Jessica Hollie said, most of her peers don't intend to catch citizens breaking the law, the problem with live uncut video is, well, that it's live and uncut. In other words, livestreamers capture what happens exactly as it happens — and that has contentious implications for a movement that continues to wrestle with its relationship with violence and property destruction.

"Everybody wants footage of the cops being brutal — and we're all in favor of that," Baban said, speaking for himself and livestreaming partner Emily Breed, known online as Lexica. "But there's an argument being made that we shouldn't film protester misbehavior, or that livestreamers are somehow doing the cops' job for them."

At last week's Citizens' Police Review Board meeting, Mills used livestream footage as evidence that the Oakland Police Department had violated procedure at several junctions over the last several months — but Brian Glasscock, who has been involved with Occupy Oakland for several months, said it's not hard to imagine the city using the same footage to prosecute protesters down the line. "What people don't realize about livestreamers is that their seemingly innocuous video might help the police bring a conspiracy charge or get someone convicted," he said.

Livestreamers, like other journalists, typically operate under the principle that, in Mills' words, "there's no expectation of privacy in the public space," and that they're under no obligation to protect protesters' identities. And that, Glasscock argued, is a problem. "They don't always recognize when people don't want to be filmed, and they should respect people's requests not to be on camera," he said. "I could understand someone getting aggressive with a livestreamer that was filming them against their will — they're potentially putting their life on the line."

But Breed argued that it's a slippery slope. "If people know that we turn our camera off for certain situations or certain people, they'll have no reason to trust anything else that we show." In her and Baban's mind, transparency is paramount. That's why they coined the slogan and hashtag #sunshinebloc, a reference to the aphorism "sunshine is the best disinfectant," and it's why they've continued to film, tweet, and otherwise document Occupy Oakland actions even in the face of threats and criticism. "We believe that more cameras, more videos, more images is always a good thing, and that the national and international movement is very much served by transparency," Baban said.

> "WE BELIEVE THAT MORE CAMERAS, MORE VIDEOS, MORE IMAGES IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING, AND THAT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT IS VERY MUCH SERVED BY TRANSPARENCY," BABAN SAID.

In that sense — and as livestreamers are continually faced with questions about whether they're helping or hurting the movement — it's clear that for the people doing it, documentation is a radical act. "People talk a lot about diversity of tactics around here," Mills said, gesturing toward Frank Ogawa Plaza. "Well, transparency is my tactic." ■

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Homeless boat-dwellers use a variety of means to get out into the water, including, 'swish', kayaks.

Amina Waheed

Homeless on the Bay

A growing number of homeless people are taking up illegal residence on off-anchor boats — and some say their presence is causing increased environmental pollution and crime

By Amina Waheed

If you stroll along the shore of any one of the East Bay's marinas on a crisp morning, you'll see the usual: young men and women from local rowing teams pulling their oars, couples holding hands and pushing strollers, and the occasional brazen duck wandering too close to the dogs out for a walk. Unless you're a dock manager like Oakland's Bud Brown, you might not notice homeless individuals who have taken up residence in the marina's many abandoned boats.

Over the last two years, Brown has noticed more and more people walking away from their vessels, unable to pay the slip rent — on average $200 to $250 per month — to keep them docked at the marina. As the number of these ownerless boats has increased, so too has the number of homeless people who have realized how easily they can replace living beneath an underpass with living on the water. They illegally anchor out in the Oakland Estuary — the boating community uses the terms "off anchor" or "on-the-hook" — rather than at a dock.

According to state laws, only two categories of people are allowed to live out on the water, and even then only under very specific circumstances. If granted permission by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission — the agency that regulates water sanitation in the Bay Area — harbors are allowed to host a few "live-aboards" to enhance the security of the marina, but they cannot make up more than 10 percent of the marina's population. The only others permitted to live at marinas are world travelers who need a place to dock their boats temporarily. Both these groups of people must live docked at the marina, not anchored out in the middle of the water.

But off-anchors aren't following these rules, and dock managers say they're causing other problems for the marina community. The increase in the number of homeless and illegal boat-dwellers, they say, has led to a chronic wave of thefts that has kept marinas on both sides of the Oakland Estuary under siege. Meanwhile, they complain, the illegal estuary-dwellers are causing a host of environmental problems by dumping sewage in the water or abandoning their boats, which can leach toxic substances as they disintegrate.

"There's always been off-anchors and it was kind of a cool thing," said Brown, who has been managing the Fifth Avenue Marina in Oakland for the last five years. "But recently there's been a bad element. People can hide out from the law and take advantage of staying with no repercussions."

Before Brown became the dock manager of the marina, he ran an antique business in Berkeley. There, he was offered a bargain deal: some antique vases in exchange for the boat of Sharon Sites Adams, the first woman to sail solo across the Pacific. An avid fisherman who once participated in the Big Catch salmon fishing competition in Alaska, Brown couldn't say no. Since then, he's been living on the marina, keeping a close eye on who comes in and out.

"See that over there?" said Brown, pointing to a decaying boat with a thick silver line etched along its side, sitting idly in the middle of the estuary. "Someone's living on that, illegally." When asked how he can tell, he smiled in a way that revealed he's been doing this for a long time. "The registration number is not current," he said. "There's no mast, no motor. It can't be moved."

Brown says there are six to eight off-anchors living on the Embarcadero strip that runs from Oakland's Fifth Avenue Marina to Alameda's Union Point Marina. Many of the people on those boats are on parole or probation, he said. (His counterpart, Brock de Lappe, the harbormaster of the much larger Alameda Marina, estimates that there are in total about 25 boats anchored illegally in the middle of the estuary.)

Brown says he understands that people need a place to live, especially these days, as the economy seems more and more like a sinking ship. But he's most concerned with the thefts that have erupted in Oakland and other Bay Area marinas. The most frequently stolen items are outboard motors, Brown says, in addition to anything else of value that can be easily ripped off, like radar units, small rafts, and batteries.

Walking around the shoreline in Oakland, Brown points out the different means by which potential thieves are able to get out to the water: dinghies, rafts, jet skis. He points to a flat, white object floating next to a beat-up old sailboat that's missing a mast. It's a surfboard. "Two a.m. to four a.m. are the witching hours," he said, as he recounted tale after tale of having to hunt down stolen boating equipment for tenants.

In the last three months, the Oakland Police Department has received eleven reports of theft pertaining to boating equipment, in addition to three reports of stolen vehicles at marinas along the Embarcadero Cove alone. Local Problem Solving Officer Christopher Koden was made aware of the issue at a meeting with harbormasters in February. "I believe there are a lot of these incidents going unreported," Koden said, "because from what I've heard, there's a lot of incidents."

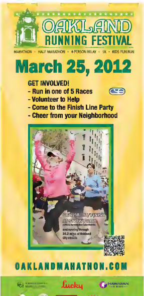
Brown blames the problem on a small, motley group of off-anchors. "I know who steals because I've had direct contact with them," Brown said, estimating that about six to eight individuals are responsible for the thefts. "It's a small community here. Word of mouth travels in a small community. Just like the police know who the problem children are out on the streets, it's the same thing here."

Some of the formerly homeless boat-dwellers living in the marina readily acknowledge the problem. "Yeah, I know people who do it," said 50-year-old Andrea Nichols, who has been living on a boat around Coast Guard Island, off the shore between Oakland and Alameda, for the last two years. "I tell 'em not to shit in their own backyard."

But Nichols also says that many of these thefts are committed by people coming from land. "The ones that were stealing have places to live," said Nichols. These individuals, Nichols said, live in motor homes or vacant property. "They like getting things for nothing," she said, adding that boats are really easy to break into. "And if they can't use it for themselves, then they sell it and get money for it."

Brown says that the Fifth Avenue Marina doesn't have nearly as high of a theft rate as other marinas: it's smaller, and since Brown lives there, boat thieves are less likely to operate in his territory.

"Talk to Brock," Brown said, referring to the harbormaster of the much larger



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Alameda Marina, located across the channel from Coast Guard Island. "He's closer to that Union Point Marina where they all hang out. He's closer to the problem."

Over the phone, Brock de Lappe gets right to the point: He's constantly hearing from outraged tenants about stolen outboard motors — and he's tired of it. De Lappe, who has been leading efforts to find a solution to the off-anchor problem, was in the midst of writing up a summary of a meeting between local dock managers, law enforcement, and other concerned members of the boating community.

"Anybody can come in, especially in the middle of the night, and steal anything," said de Lappe. He points out that although there are gates to discourage people from entering the marinas by land, there's no way to effectively regulate those coming in through the water via kayaks or small row boats. "And what can the police do?" he asked. "They'll do a police report, but what follow-up is there with that? Zero."

Theft is not the only problem plaguing the waters. De Lappe and other harbormasters must also wrestle with the environmental effects of off-anchor living, which include water pollution from poor sanitation practices and the dumping of abandoned boats, which snarl the harbor.

Boat-dwellers who dump human excrement overboard are a major concern for local marinas and water conservation groups. Normally, legal live-aboards who are docked to the marina have their boats' septic tanks sucked clean by a mobile waste unit that connects directly to their boats; they also mainly use the marina's toilets on land. Or they'll dump their waste tanks at a special holding facility.

But the tanks on the boats used by illegal off-anchors don't have holding lines. "So where do they dump their waste?" asked de Lappe. "Not that there's not sympathy for homeless people, but where do you draw the line?"

The dumping of sewage directly into the water also concerns Adrienne Klein, chief of enforcement at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

"On a small scale, it's not a big deal. But, cumulatively, it's a big deal," she said.

Another issue is that both homeless and formerly paying dock residents sometimes leave behind decrepit boats when they move away. The decaying matter on these boats — like rusted paint or leaking fuel tanks — can turn toxic, said Klein. Also, if the boat is not anchored properly, it could drift and crash into other boats, especially during a storm. It's an occurrence that has happened a number of times before, Brown said, and has cost his marina thousands of dollars in damages, especially since the individuals who once lived on those boats don't have insurance.

At a meeting de Lappe organized at the Jack London Aquatic Center in February, harbormasters from nine marinas around the Oakland estuary, including the Oakland Barnhill Marina and Boatyard, Grand Marina, Portman Marina, Marina Village Yacht Harbor, Alameda Marina, and Fifth Avenue Marina, agreed that it's important to dispose of these abandoned boats early on. The problem for most marinas, however, is that getting rid of a boat is expensive.

There's the labor cost for hiring divers if the boat has sunk, the cost for renting a hoist (a special crane that lifts the boat out of the water and onto land), the cost to hire a tow truck, plus extra dollars for a special trailer to haul the boat over to a temporary storage facility. Then there are the overhead costs for the storage facility itself, where the boat must be kept for ninety days in case somebody claims it.

If nobody claims it, it costs more money to hire someone to break down the boat, especially to melt and recycle the keel, the weighted fin on the bottom of the sailboat made of lead or iron, which stabilizes the boat. Depending on the kind of boat, dumping it can be even more expensive. Powerboats cost more to get rid of because of the hazardous material that can result from engine oil leaking from the fuel tank.

Brown said that one time the Fifth Avenue Marina had to dish out $10,000 to get rid of an abandoned boat. With all those costs, it's cheaper to just sell it, even if only for a dollar — something that Brown and other harbormasters have done.

Adam Wishood

According to state laws, it's illegal to live "off-anchor" in the middle of the water for long periods of time.

Anna Wabond

Andrea Nichols, 56, was homeless for ten years before she moved on to a boat in the Oakland Estuary. "I'm homeless, but I'm not boatless," she said.

But some people think that law enforcement and local marinas are paying way too much for this service. David McMasters runs a small boat recovery service that pulls abandoned boats out of the water for a fraction of the cost of what marinas and law enforcement units would normally have to pay. He is able to do it for little money, he says, because of his custom-made trailer that he uses to haul the boats onto land. What he can't recycle, he sells as scrap.

"It doesn't take ten-, twenty-, thirty-thousand dollars," he said. "It just makes sense to do something like this, than have boats sunk, tipped over, and people doing illegal activities on them."

McMasters' boat recovery service has caught the attention of several local marina operators, who say that cooperation from people like McMasters is an important part of the solution. But it's a complex situation, one that can't be solved simply with tougher law enforcement or more money for boat retrieval. "There's a social element to the problem," Klein said. "You're not just dealing with a missing public shoreline or a maintenance problem. You're dealing with a population that is struggling."

Some of the homeless off-anchors are trying to stay out of trouble, but their hard-knock lives have made it difficult for them to come up with other options. On an early Saturday morning, with the kind of dull weather Northern California is known for, Andrea Nichols tidied up inside her boat the best she could, while her boyfriend Chris docked their small Sunfish raft nearby. Her black lab Good Boy bounded excitedly back and forth on the deck, his tail wagging furiously.

Nichols said she had been homeless for ten years before she heard from a girlfriend two years ago about a guy known to the small boating community as "Larry the Pirate," who was selling boats for cheap. Her brother loaned her the $250 to buy one, and before long she moved from living on Oakland's streets into a small one-bedroom boat. "I'm homeless, but I'm not boatless," she said matter-of-factly.

A New York native, Nichols moved to Oakland in 1991. She came out to the city to live with her mom and get away from her life in Florida, where Nichols says she was a crack addict, worked as a prostitute, and would go Dumpster-diving in her most sparkling of dresses. Nichols says she put herself through rehab but started using again shortly after she got out. She pulled out her arm and showed the holes in her veins where she used to shoot up "crank," or methamphetamines. Now she says she just smokes it. "I'm the problem, not the drugs," she said, blowing cigarette smoke into her dirty-blond hair. She adjusted her skirt — an old black shirt she has wrapped around her waist.

In anticipation of her photograph being taken, Nichols brushed her hair back and used an old pair of scissors to trim her bangs in front of an oval mirror on her bathroom door, which she's turned into a storage closet. Good Boy sat on her disheveled bed, watching her with his chin tucked between his paws.

The three-rooms-in-one of Nichols' boat offers her space to accumulate the kind of clutter that any pack rat would have. Half-used bottles of lotion, saline and nail polish remover sat on a table along with a hotplate stacked with pots and pans and a paper plate, which held the remnants of a burger Nichols ate the night before. A jar of pickles and some bruised bananas sat next to a bag of colorful pens. Light filtered in through a sheer bedsheet — emblazoned with Superman logos — draped across the windows.

Nichols apologized for the mess and showed a white bucket closet to her. Its top was covered with a scrungy old toilet seat duvet. She said whimsically that it has her "poo poo and pee pee" in it. "I try to tell people it smells like roses, but everybody says they've never smelled roses like that before," she said, letting out a short laugh. Nichols said she usually collects her waste in a bucket and then dumps it out at a pumping station on shore, but that the station's been broken down lately. She also knows others who don't use the pumping stations at all.

Does she ever throw her sewage waste overboard? "Not all the time," Nichols said. "Otherwise, the world would be a pile of shit."

Nichols is a rare member of the homeless community, though. Instead of overtaking an abandoned vessel, she bought her boat. It's one of three boats she says she owns — all of which are considered illegal because they're off anchor and have not been registered with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. One of them is an abandoned boat she says she took over from a friend who's now serving time in an Arizona state prison for bank robbery. She's rented it out twice before — to two homeless couples — but it never panned out.

"The first couple, I charged $25 per week," Nichols said. "But they weren't taking all the poo poo away and the girl went crazy." The second couple, she said, paid for one month and stayed for three and a half. Nichols decided not to rent to anyone anymore.

Nichols doesn't mention anything about the fact that renting out abandoned boats to tenants, let alone living on one in the middle of the water, is illegal. She just said it's better than where she lived before, over by the old railroad tracks near the shore, on the rocks in between the wood yard and city district buildings, or at Fifth Avenue Estuary Park.

"Living on a boat is hard sometimes," Nichols said. "But it's better than living in a tent."

To have people living illegally aboard unregistered boats out on the water means greater responsibility for harbormasters and the different agencies that patrol the marinas, among them the US Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, and the Oakland Police Department. It also takes money, something that local law enforcement officials like Officer Jim Gordon — a member of the OPD's Marine Unit and the central director of the California Boating Safety Officers Association — says is in short supply these days.

On a sunny Tuesday morning near Jack London Square, Gordon picked up the walkie-talkie attached to the roof of the OPD boat to let surrounding agencies know that he was patrolling the water. Other than the short gray hairs barely visible beneath his navy OPD hat, there are no clues that Gordon is only a little more than a year away from retirement. A "motorcycle cop" with the OPD for 27 years, Gordon mainly regulates truck traffic and port security. But Gordon is also part of a team of three to four OPD officers who patrol the waters two or three days a week in search of any suspicious activity, such as people taking kayaks beneath underpasses. He says he could probably patrol more, but he's been preoccupied with other duties, including the Occupy Oakland protests.

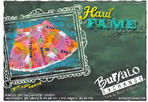
Since Gordon joined the Marine Unit in 2002, after the September 11th attacks increased the federal government's concerns regarding port security, he's been applying for federal grants to acquire top-of-the-line patrol boats for the department. Although he acquired three patrol boats and is expecting a fourth through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, Gordon says there's not enough money to patrol the estuary with the kind of force that it needs. For example, he says, he and the other officers assigned to the unit rarely patrol at night — it would mean overtime that the department can't afford.

"We have the laws, but we don't have the money or the system in place to enforce them," Gordon said as he turned on his infrared sonar monitor. As he guided the patrol boat deeper into the estuary, he pointed out a number of small off-anchor boats clearly abandoned or with people living on them. They're mostly all rusting at the bottom. At one point, near 6th Avenue, Gordon passed multiple sailboats with orange and black "for sale" signs tacked to their masts, anchored out in the water. He sighed and pulled out his phone, saying aloud to himself, "If you don't want 'em, we can get rid of them, but you can't anchor out."

Gordon stopped and chatted with a few off-anchors along the way. One woman who saw Gordon's patrol boat stepped out onto her deck, her long brown hair falling over a tie-dyed T-shirt. Putting her hand above her reading glasses to shield her eyes from the sun, she told him that she hasn't seen any illegal activities lately. "No, it's all been good," she said.

Gordon called this off-anchor resident one of the "better ones," who got her boat's registration sticker updated when she was cited for not having a current one. "It's kind of hard to get on somebody when they're trying," Gordon said as he waved goodbye to her.

Officer Jim Gordon of the OPD's marine unit patrols the Oakland Estuary about three times a week. A lack of funding and other responsibilities have made it difficult for him to patrol more often.



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Anna Wolaed

In the twenty years Ryan Donovan has owned Philbrick Boat Works, he's experienced thefts. But in the last few year, the number of these thefts has increased, which he blames on the "homeless pirates."

Another man, who identified himself as Michael, stopped Gordon and told him he was at the meeting with de Lappe and the other harbormasters. He leaned over his boat, a cigarette stub dangling between his fingers, so Gordon could hear him better. "Some of us aren't doing anything wrong," he told Gordon. "We're not committing the crimes." Gordon nodded, eyeing the boat's updated registration sticker.

Although Gordon was unable to give exact statistics, he's aware of the volume of reports coming in about thefts in the marinas. As he pulled away, Gordon said that the thefts are probably committed mostly by people in the same small group, and not by everyone in the off-anchor community.

"Some of these guys are out on parole or probation," Gordon said, referring to the illegal off-anchor dwellers. "We've caught some of them on shore stealing," especially things like copper, which has a high resale value. Gordon pointed to an old building off of 6th Avenue. "That guy lost thousands of his own money when a group of people came in and stripped the copper from all his power lines and electrical cables," he said.

Gordon recognizes that some of the marina's illegal inhabitants are in bad financial straits. He said he first began to notice an increase in live-aboards "in conjunction with the downturn of the economy. People are losing their houses so they'll come across a vessel or a boat."

But although his relationship with them is cordial, he says, "I've been around long enough to know that even someone that seems nice can be doing something wrong."

By 5 a.m., the waitress at Nikko's 24-hour diner in East Oakland had refilled Ryan Donovan's coffee mug for the third time. He'd been there an hour already, as he is every morning before he heads to work at his boat building business. The name "Philbrick Boat Works" is embroidered in white letters across his light blue work suit. At somewhere around six-foot two, the Vietnam veteran sat at one of the restaurant's red padded booths where on a Saturday, late-night revelers and early-morning workers intersect over eggs, toast, and hash browns.

Between Thanksgiving 2010 and August 2011, Donovan has reported nineteen break-ins at his boat shop on 6th Avenue, which lies across from the waters of Embarcadero Cove. The most recent happened on March 1. The largest burglary so far, on April 15, 2011, was the third of a string of thefts — each within two weeks of each other — that left his shop stripped bare, especially of its electrical wiring which, among other things, powers his security system. He blames this on people he calls "pirates" — homeless off-anchors who came across the water to steal from his shop.

"Crime has been an ongoing element of inner-city Oakland forever," he said, adding that Philbrick has been experiencing theft since it opened in 1934, well before he bought it. His blue eyes grew big behind his glasses as he recalled finding a dead body in his shop in 1992, after a fight broke out between three burglars. "The new element to our crime problem is the homeless," he said. "They're pirates, because they live on their boats and all they do is crime."

In the most recent incident, he said, thieves cost him $1,100 in copper wiring and $12,000 worth of inventory: two small grinders he uses to make sawdust, an airless spray painter, a small welder, and hand tools such as screwdrivers, pliers, and hammers. The thefts forced him to shut down his business for three months. Thieves also ripped out the copper cables from several fuse boxes. Each one costs between $300 and $500 to repair, he said.

The costs have gone beyond the loss of work tools, though; the thefts have also taken a heavy toll on Donovan's health. The process of reconstructing his walls, which the thieves tore down, exacerbated his arthritis, requiring him to undergo reconstructive neck surgery, Donovan said. He now has a titanium clip in his neck, which causes him so much pain that he can only work four hours a day, instead of the ten to twelve hours he was able to work before.

"I've come in to work and they're in the process of doing their deed," Donovan said, referring to a time during a routine security

Anisa Wahed

Abandoned, decrepit boats pose an environmental challenge for marinas in the estuary by leaking toxic substances into the water, particularly when they sink.

check that he found a man rummaging around in the yard outside his shop. But because the man didn't have any tools on him when the police came, he was only cited for trespassing, Donovan said.

In addition to the thefts, the pirates have used the walls of Donovan's property as canvases. He has pictures of their work: detailed, colorful graffiti, often of a spider-like creature, interspersed with not-so-cryptic messages like "Fuck you." Each time, Donovan paints over them, leaving them a blank wall to work with, but not wanting them to feel like they've won.

Donovan started a neighborhood watch with others living and working along the Embarcadero Cove. "Either you're part of the solution or you're part of the problem," he said. And he has recorded the expired registration numbers of the six to eight vessels he believes hosts the group of people responsible for most of the thefts at his shop. He's contacted everyone he said, from the US Coast Guard to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "Nobody has the budget availability for enforcement," he said, wearily. "The head of the Port of Oakland's security told me, 'There's nothing we can do about it. We don't care about that.'"

America's Cup, the top sailboat race in the world, will arrive at San Francisco Bay in the summer of 2013. The competition will mean a stream of money coming into the city, as well as added pressure on Bay Area marinas to get rid of the homeless population living on the water. "You want to look good for your city," Brown said. "You don't want to get stuff stolen or have all these derelict boats. Nor do you want someone dumping their waste next to all these fancy yachts coming in."

But enforcement remains a job that many in the marina community believe is not being done right. There are practical constraints to enforcing the law in an off-anchor community. For example, de Lappe said, "If a vessel is out on the water and doesn't have a current registration, the Coast Guard is allowed to cite them for lack of registration. But where are you going to send the citation? These people don't have a mailing address."

There are also financial constraints. "The problem costs money," said Brown, not only to dispose of the abandoned boats, but to provide social services for the homeless population living on the water, and to incarcerate the individuals who are stealing. "And no one wants to deal with that," he added.

Brown has an idea for how he'd deal with the problem of derelict boats and the off-anchors who have taken control of them before America's Cup reaches the bay's shores. "The solution's real simple," he said. "Put an abandoned sticker on these boats. Say [to the owners]: 'You have 72 hours to clean this, otherwise we'll destroy it.' Then destroy it."

But Brown doesn't want a total ban on off-anchor residents. He believes that those who are off-anchor who are not causing any trouble and just choose an "off-the-grid" lifestyle on the water shouldn't be punished (as long as their registration permits are current). "Six to eight people have caused all the problems in these marinas," he said, fuming.

These days, Nichols is on the hunt for a new boat because her boat has been leaking through the bilge — the lowest point on the boat that collects excess water. If not taken care of, it could cause the boat to sink.

Despite the risks, and the rumors about increased law enforcement, Nichols doesn't have any immediate plans to leave the water, although she has applied for SSI — Supplemental Security Income from Social Security — and says that if she gets it she would move into an apartment.

In the meantime, though, while she's "close to shore and in a good neighborhood," the water will remain home. "The cops don't seem to be giving anybody a hard time. They're just riding around checking things out, trying to do their job," she said.

And if law enforcement does get ratcheted up before the America's Cup, "I'm not going to worry about that until the time comes." ●

This story was originally published by Oakland North at OaklandNorth.net.

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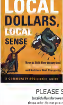

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[illegible] at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach [illegible] Through Mar. 25. [illegible] Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Mar. 17 [illegible] Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

[illegible] Ship Day With children's activities, [illegible] Sat., Mar. 10 [illegible] USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

[illegible] at Eastside With [illegible] screenings of *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*, *Do the Right Thing*, film clips, and rare speeches by Malcolm X. A fundraiser for the 2011 [illegible] Fri., Mar. 16, 4-10 p.m. [illegible] Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629. [illegible]

[illegible] Night at the [illegible] With a screening of [illegible] Mar. 20, 7-9 p.m. $5 donation. [illegible] Oakland [illegible] Cultural Center, 388 9th [illegible]

St., Oakland. [illegible]

Saturday Night Stargazing [illegible] Saturday of every season. [illegible] Continues through Mar. 17. [illegible] Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

USS Iowa Tours [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Mar. 17. [illegible] USS Iowa, 1411 [illegible] Way South, Richmond. 877-446-9291. [illegible]

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Shore a Shore 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party With green food, bag pipers, drummers, Irish dancing girls [illegible] Mar. 17, 12-10 p.m. [illegible]

The Starry Plough's 38th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration [illegible] performances by The McBride [illegible] Dancers of California [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17, noon. [illegible] Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPlough-Pub.com.

Women's History Celebration [illegible] histories of pioneering women from the early days of the space program, [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17 [illegible] Chabot Space & Science [illegible]

Loot [illegible] festival with 25 short, hands-on workshops on topics like growing plants without soil, jewelry making, build-your-robot, and [illegible] DNA sequencing, and [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17 [illegible] Tech Liminal, 268 14th St., Oakland. 510-832-3401. TechLiminal.com.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Holistic Living Expo [illegible] Sat., Mar. 10 [illegible] Pleasanton [illegible]

Hump-day Happy Hour: "Safer Sexy" [illegible] Learn how to make safer sex sexy with the right toys and lubricants. Free [illegible] Wed., Mar. 21, 6-8 p.m. free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

People's Community Medics: Free Medical Training for the People With emergency first aid [illegible] For more information: 510-250-1727 or PeoplesCommunityMedics@Gmail.com. Sat., Mar. 11, 12-5 p.m., [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] The American Foundation for [illegible] hosts a walk at [illegible] with free food, a raffle, [illegible] and performances. Begins and [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., donations requested. [illegible] UC Berkeley Campus, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

PICKS

Festival of California Extra Virgin Olive Oil

If you [illegible] ponder such [illegible] questions as what [illegible] makes an olive oil "extra virgin," you'll find the answer at the Pasta Shop's (1786 Fourth St., Berkeley) fourth annual Festival of California Extra Virgin Olive Oil, where, in addition to tastings, pairings, and cooking demonstrations, a panel of California olive oil producers (including Lucero Olive Oil, Pacific Sun Farms, and Corto) will discuss such distinctions. Other attractions at this year's showcase of extra virgins include a cooking demo with Pasta Shop Executive Chef Scott Miller, an olive oil guessing game, and more. On Saturday, Mar. 17, 1-4 p.m., free. 510-250-6004 or ThePastaShop.net. — *Cassie Harwood*

The Pasta Shop's Scott Miller
Stuart Stewart

Bunny Flicks Film Screening and Vegan Potluck

One [illegible] to appreciate the cuteness of bunny rabbits, though some vegans would argue that it helps. But regardless of whether you prefer to munch on carrots or gnaw on jerky, all fans of the fluff-tailed creatures may partake in Bunny Flicks, the House Rabbit Society Center's (148 Broadway, Richmond) new monthly film, discussion, and vegan potluck series focusing on animal- and eco-friendly films. The first showing features a screening of *Equal Opportunity*, a documentary about — you guessed it — rabbits, followed by a discussion and dinner. Bring a vegan dish to share (and definitely leave the rabbit stew at home). On Saturday, Mar. 17, 2-5 p.m., $5 suggested donation. 510-970-7575 or RabbitCenter.org. — *C.H.*

KIDS

39th Annual "[illegible]" [illegible] [illegible] students in kindergarten through 5th grade submit artwork and entry forms at the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department [illegible] Through Mar. 28 [illegible] Shore Center, 523 South Shore Center West, Alameda. 510-521-1185. AlamedaSouthShoreCenter.com.

Emeryville's Spring Fling [illegible] and Egg Hunt With bouncy houses, balloon art, fire truck and police car tours, face painting, games and prizes, food, and more. [illegible] Sat., Mar. 31, 12-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Emeryville Marina Park, 3310 Powell St., Emeryville. 510-596-3716. CI.Emeryville.CA.us.

[illegible] at Habitot The [illegible] annual traditional celebration [illegible] Tue., Mar. 20, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [illegible] Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

[illegible] Family Thingamajig [illegible] Sun., Mar. 18, 12-3 p.m., [illegible] California [illegible] Oakland. [illegible] MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Day at Habitot With Saint Patrick's Day-themed art and crafts. Sat., Mar. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [illegible] Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

LGBT

East Bay Bi-Friendly Meeting Look for the "Bi-friendly" sign. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Au Coquelet Cafe, 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0433. AuCoquelet.com.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible]: "A Mystical Haggadah: Passover Teachings, Tales and Meditations" The rabbi discusses the mystical meaning and rituals of Passover and reads from his new book. [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Berkeley [illegible] of every month [illegible] 2596 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-3857. [illegible]

Spring Equinox [illegible] No experience in drumming or shamanism needed. Bring a drum or rattle if you have one. Sun., Mar. 18, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

Tarot, Aura, and Numerology With Dorothy [illegible] Fri., Mar. 30, 6-8:30 p.m., free, but donations accepted. [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

SALES, PROMOTIONS & FUNDRAISERS

From Tops at Toilets, Educational Books and [illegible] Learn [illegible] water saving technologies [illegible] A benefit to raise funds for a greywater study being undertaken by Greywater Action. Fri., Mar. 30, 7-9 p.m. [illegible] Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

Mommy Makeover With hairstyling, food, massage, manicure [illegible] and makeup application, and more. [illegible] Thu., Mar. 22, 2-8 p.m. [illegible]

St. [illegible] Day Sale and [illegible] [illegible] Call [illegible] at 510-291-4460 and tell them your

ride to an Bay Injury Lawyers. Additional [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17, 3 p.m.-3 a.m., free. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

Art à la Carte at Cornell [illegible] With step-by-step lessons on color mixing and composition, and wine drinking. [illegible] Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through Apr. 1. $35. 510-463-1444. ArtALaCarteStudios.com. [illegible] 100 Webster St., Oakland. [illegible]

Art à la Carte at [illegible] With step-by-step lessons on color mixing and composition, and wine drinking. [illegible] Tuesdays, [illegible] Continues through Mar. 27. $35. 510-463-1444. [illegible]

Art à la Carte at Rock Wall Wine Co. With step-by-step lessons on color mixing and composition, and wine drinking. [illegible] Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 12. $35. 510-463-1444. ArtALaCarte-Studios.com. Rock Wall Wine Company, 2001 Monarch St., Ste. 300 [illegible]

Art à la Carte at [illegible] With step-by-step lessons on color mixing and composition, and wine drinking. [illegible] Mondays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 2. $35. 510-463-1444. ArtALaCarteStudios.com. [illegible] 1731 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Berkeley Underground Film Society Join the film club for screenings of [illegible] Super 8, and 16mm movies and shorts. This week: [illegible] Sun., Mar. 18, 1 p.m., donations accepted. BerkeleyUndergroundFilm.blogspot.com.

Bicycle Bingo [illegible] hosts a weekly bingo game with prizes, to raise funds for various nonprofits. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., [illegible] Actual Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-8386. ActualCafe.com.

Bunny Flicks: Film Screening and Bunny Potluck A new monthly film screening and discussion of animal- and eco-friendly films. This month: *Equal Opportunity*. [illegible] Sat., Mar. 17 [illegible] suggested donation. [illegible] House Rabbit Society [illegible] 148 Broadway, [illegible] 970-7575. RabbitCenter.org/ [illegible]

East Bay [illegible] Sustainable [illegible] [illegible] networking event for anyone involved in sustainable [illegible] environmental and social issues, local and organic food [illegible] Wed., Mar. 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] 2040 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] Local123Gallery.com.

Moms' Night Out Join other moms at the Piedmont Avenue Art Walk for an evening of art, entertainment, and refreshments. RSVP to EastBayMomsMix.com for [illegible] location. Thu., Mar. 15, [illegible] EastBayMoms.com.

[illegible] Video Night With Mac [illegible] speaking, and an examination of the future from scientific, spiritual [illegible] and philosophical perspectives. Ages 18 and up. Fri., Mar. 16, 7-10 p.m. [illegible] Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Berkeley. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Pub [illegible] [illegible] Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m., free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080. TheMissouriLounge.com.

[illegible] [illegible] a monthly tournament [illegible] Berkeley [illegible] 5:30 p.m., $3. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4388. [illegible]

[illegible] Boogie Casual Berkeley [illegible] dancing [illegible] and other car-friendly music. Sundays, 1:30-11 p.m., $8-$15. [illegible] Studio, 2520 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-527-5135.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Dragon Boat Racing Join the dragons: Dragon Floats for free introductory dragon boating sessions. Meets at 2400 Mariner Square Dr. [illegible] Saturdays, 8:45-10:30 a.m., free. 510-521-7566. AlamedaDragonFlyers.com.

Early [illegible] Meet in front of the Visitor Center for a birding walk through the Tilden Nature Area. Sun., Mar. 18, 7:30-9:30 a.m., free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. EBParks.org.

Family [illegible] Walk Sun., Mar. 18, 1-3 p.m.; Sun., Mar. 25, 1-3 p.m., free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. EBParks.org.

Fight [illegible] Play old-school fighting video games like Soul Calibur and Street Fighter, with a tournament at 1:30 p.m. [illegible] Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m. [illegible] The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 611 16th St., Oakland. [illegible]

First California [illegible] Tournament With open men's and women's and mixed [illegible] For ages 50 and up. Through Mar. 17 [illegible] Campo di Bocce, 1 [illegible] Ave., Livermore. 925-249-9800. CampodiBocce.com. [illegible]

[illegible] Walk Mon., Mar. 19, 9 a.m.-noon [illegible] Regional Parks [illegible] Wildcat Canyon Rd. and South Park Dr., Berkeley. 510-544-3187. EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden. [illegible]

Oakland Youth Rowing Seventh and eighth graders can learn the basics of rowing [illegible] Saturdays, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. $250 for three weeks. 510-899-1801. OaklandYouthRowing.com. Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-2196. JLAC.org.

Berkeley [illegible] With a roughly 3.75-mile moderate hike. Meet in the Tilden Center parking lot. Sat., Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-noon, free [illegible] Regional Park, 1001 Redwood Rd., Oakland. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Wildflower [illegible] [illegible] mile-long hike on a newly constructed trail [illegible] Sun., Mar. 18, 11 a.m., free. [illegible] 2535 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-373-0332. LARPD.dst.CA.us. [illegible]

Windsurfing [illegible] Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., free for members, $75 for three months. CalSailing.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-931-4390. CI.Berkeley.CA.us/Marina.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Annual Gate Fields [illegible] With [illegible] hot dogs and other [illegible] Sundays. [illegible] Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

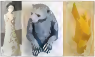
Golden State Warriors Vs. the Sacramento Kings. Fri., Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m., $05-$2,000; vs. the [illegible] Mon., Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m., $20-$2,000. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

St. Patrick's Day at the Track With racing, green beer, and Irish specials. Sat., Mar. 17, [illegible] Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

UC Berkeley Men's Tennis Vs. [illegible] Thu., Mar. 15, 1:30 p.m. Hellman Tennis Center, Dwight St. [illegible] Way crossing. 510-642-9840. CalBears.com/Facilities/Hellman-Tennis-Complex.html.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES


Obi Kaufmann

Art by Natalie Cartwright, Joseph Kowalczyk, and Monica Van den Doel

Highlights of March Art Murmur

The ten best artists in Oakland this month

When it comes to group shows, it can be hard to find a common thread where one might not actually exist. But that doesn't mean there aren't artists worth mentioning. Here are ten who may or may not be at the mercy of their gallery neighbors.

10. Wayne Armstrong. Luminescent abstraction that connects contemporary and traditional Bay Area landscape painting. Remember oil paint? Turns out it's beautiful. *Spilt Milk* runs through March 30 at Manna Gallery (473 25th St. Ste. C, Oakland, 510-282-2335, MannaGallery.com).

9. Lowell Darling. A long, personal history of subverting the conventions of object making in a show that is refreshingly tongue-in-cheek. This guy's story is hilarious and inspiring. *This Is Your Life* runs through March 24 at Krowswork Gallery (480 23rd St., Oakland, 510-229-7035, Krowswork.com).

8. Jody Medich. Simply presented subject matter existential in its expert rendering. Who knew chairs could be so enthralling? *Chairs* runs through March 24 at Mercury20 (475 25th St., Oakland, 510-701-4620, MercuryTwenty.com).

7. Marcos LaFarga. Graphic vision that seamlessly ties together an urban sensibility with a conscious sense of art history. Through March 30 at Sticks + Stones (815 Broadway, Oakland, 510-689-1280, SS-Gallery.com).

6. Natalie Cartwright. Delicate, figurative, multimedia sculpture with a simplicity that belies deeper issues. *Woven Through Time* runs through March 30 at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland, 510-893-8800, Vessel-Gallery.com).

5. Monica Van den Doel. Bright ceramics that subvert "cutesy" with a scale that invokes a more disturbing vibe. Giant dead canaries have never been so strangely beautiful. Through March 30 at Roscoe Ceramic Gallery (473 25th St., Oakland, 510-515-3174, RoscoeCeramicGallery.com).

4. John W. Wood. Expressive multimedia works that deny conventional drawing technique. Were these made with hands at all or some sort of choreographed full-body smearing? *His Mine Ours* runs through March 17 at Oakopolis (447 25th St., Oakland, 510-663-6920, Oakopolis.org).

3. Steve Goldband and Ellen Konar-Vast. Brilliant photographs of dreamscapes far beyond this mortal coil. The sum of the series is strikingly better than the individual prints. *Pacific Rim Exposures* runs through March 31 at Photo Gallery (473 25th St., Oakland, PhotoGalleryOakland.com).

2. Christy Kovacs. Fascinating images made of woven paper that transcend textile and become something more than drawing, more than painting, and certainly something more than collage. *Woven Through Time* runs through March 30 at Vessel Gallery (471 25th St., Oakland, 510-893-8800, Vessel-Gallery.com).

1. Joseph Kowalczyk. In his ceramic wall hangings, Kowalczyk presents a complete fantasy world where all our childhood fears and desires are actualized. *Sun the Sorceress and Spirit of Ancient Past* runs through March 31 at FM Gallery (483 25th St., Oakland, FMOakland.com).

—*Obi Kaufmann*

ART GALLERIES

ARTC Gallery, CocoMiche: A collaborative exhibition with KYA Crafts Fair featuring works made from lace by Natasha Dika-eva, Sherry Hook, Ruth Tabancay, Julia Becker, Lanna Greene, and Tom Becker. Through Apr. 8. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2527, ARTCGallery.com.

Actual Cafe, Paper Radio: A Zine Show With installations from local vendors Endless Canvas, Maelstrom, Jamie Cooper, and others, and hundreds of zines [illegible] on display. Plus a pop-up zine library. Through Apr. 12. EndlessCanvas.com. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8998, ActualCafe.com.

Aaron Gallery, Accumulate the Remains. [illegible] from the gallery's collection. Through May 31. & **Collage of [illegible]** With works by Deborah [illegible]. Through May 31. 2581 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-845-4048, AaronGallery.com.

Art [illegible] Gallery & [illegible], 7 Women With art by Andrea Vigled, Natasha Robinson, Amelia Lewis, Kristin Gustavsen, [illegible], Fleur Spolidor and Megan Cotler. Through Mar. 15. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170, [illegible].

Autobody Fine Art, [illegible] [illegible] solo exhibition featuring recent works in wooden sculpture. Through Mar. 24. 1548 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2608, AutobodyFineArt.com.

Basement Gallery, [illegible] A hands-on solo exhibition featuring the work of [illegible], including a historic exhibition of specimens and [illegible] belonging to the illusory naturalist Marcus Raffi. Through Apr. 30. 7:30 p.m. 1023 3rd St., [illegible], 510-917-2228, BasementGallery.[illegible].com.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus Museum of Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **[illegible] Californian [illegible]** This "visible storage" exhibition [illegible] some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian [illegible]. Daily. 103 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley, 510-643-7648, HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Art Center, Terrain With landscape-inspired [illegible] paintings by [illegible] Bloomfield, Chester [illegible] and [illegible]. Through Apr. 1. **Terrain: Exploring the Language of Landscape** With landscape-inspired [illegible] paintings by Jenny Bloomfield, Chester [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Apr. 1. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley, 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, [illegible] A solo exhibition of ethereal and organic paintings by Jenn Shifflet. Through Mar. 30. 480 23rd St., [illegible], 510-260-7494, ChandraCerrito.com.

The Compound Gallery & [illegible], The Art of the Letterpress With a display of antique letterpress equipment, pamphlets, and more, including works by [illegible], Matt Chase, [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Mar. 25. 1167 65th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible], TheCompoundGallery.com.

David Brower Center, Land, Use A collaborative exhibition that explores the meaning of "[illegible]" in the realms of [illegible], land, and knowledge. With works by San Francisco-based artist Amy Franceschini and Madrid-based artist Gema-Dory. Through May 8. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-809-0900, BrowerCenter.org.

[illegible], Solo Exhibit by Santiago Garnai Through May 11. 1369 Jefferson St., Oakland.

Doug Adams Gallery, The Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers A photo documentary [illegible] the lives of migrant farm workers by Rick Nahmias. Through Mar. 23. 2465 Le Conte Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-8925, Care.GTU.edu/Doug_Adams_Gallery.php.

Institute of Mosaic Art, California Mosaic [illegible], Celebrating Diversity Through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **[illegible] Art: Pet Portraits** A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. 3001 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-433-9889, InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, A Walk with Our Elders With [illegible].

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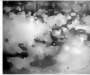
PICKS

Verdant Refuge

I'm pretty sure I'm in love with Jenn Shifflet. Okay, maybe I am in love with her paintings — it's hard to know the difference. She is a painter's painter. The depth, mystery, and ambience she attains in her multimedia compositions brings me to levels of arresting swoon that I reserve for a bunch of things other than art. Her paintings are like a good story or a great video game, or even more than that, a beautiful world strong formula of aesthetic evaluation that should not be ignored by the culture at large. Get yourself down to Chandra Cerrito Contemporary (480 23rd St., Oakland) before the show ends on Mar. 30, and check out the impressively large collection of paintings on display in her second solo show there — a show so very aptly titled *Verdant Refuge*. 510-260-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com. — *Obi Kaufmann*


Obi Kaufmann

works acrylic portraits of nursing [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible], accompanied by small works created by the Journey of the Journey. Through Mar. 31. ArtEpicurean.net, 4001 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-541-8470. East-Bay-Depot.org.

Expressions Gallery: The Land Is My Land With land, sea, and skyscapes across mediums. Through June 1. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Farley's East: Art Oakland Walking Tour: Drawing Led by artist John Casey, one of Oakland Art Murmur's board of directors. Sat., Mar. 17, 2-4 p.m. OaklandArtMurmur.org. 33 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-836-7888. FarleysCoffee.com.

[illegible] Velocity With [illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible], whose works are a mix of [illegible] and found [illegible] art. Through Apr. 14. 1001 [illegible], Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

High Street [illegible] Cafe: FACES With portraits by Paul Terrell. Ongoing. May 4. 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-995-8049. HighStreetStationCafe.com.

Johansson Projects: Follies of the Foreign [illegible] With new installation and [illegible] site work by [illegible] [illegible]. Through Mar. 17. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: [illegible] With 20 new works incorporating [illegible] and photography by San Francisco-based performance artist Anne [illegible]. Ongoing. Mar. 10. [illegible]. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/Gallery.

Joyce Gordon Gallery: [illegible] of our Time: A [illegible] to the First Lady, Michelle [illegible] Ongoing. Apr. 13. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Berkeley [illegible] of [illegible] Art and Life: Projections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of Berkeley documentary and experimental films. Daily. **Berkeley Lab** Interactive multimedia allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memorabilia. Daily. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Julie's [illegible] & Tea [illegible]: Just Use It A recycling and reuse-themed [illegible] exhibit with illustrations on found works by Lauren Napolitano and comedy [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]. Through Apr. 30. 1223 Park St., [illegible]. 510-865-[illegible]. [illegible].

Oakland International Airport: All of Us or [illegible]: Social Justice Posters of the Bay Area With 80 reproductions of [illegible] posters by various artists, addressing social issues from modern US progressive movements. Exhibition stems from an [illegible] project started by Free Speech [illegible] [illegible] in 1977. Through May 13. 1 Airport Dr., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] clothing, housewares, and art [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] from thrift stores, garage sales, and dumpsters. Ongoing. May 14. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Kala Art Institute Gallery: [illegible] An exhibition of student work, featuring interdisciplinary projects from Kala's Artists-in-Schools Program. Through Mar. 24. **Myths of Progress: Utopic Dreams/Dystopic [illegible]** The first of a two-part exhibition series exploring cycles of time. With works by [illegible] and others. Ongoing. Mar. 31. **New [illegible] by Kala** With works by Kala-affiliated artists [illegible] [illegible], and others. Through Mar. 31. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

[illegible]: This Is Your Life [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] Gallery. Through Mar. 24. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-228-1035. [illegible].com.

La Peña [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible] of [illegible] and Angels An exhibit of [illegible] by Afro-Peruvian artist [illegible] on display in the café and lounge. Ongoing. Mar. 31. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

MacArthur [illegible] [illegible]: Afterimage With works that play on a "sensory residue and/or a [illegible] state of perceptual memory" by Hillary [illegible]. Through Apr. 1. 4850 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-[illegible]. MacArthur[illegible].com.

[illegible] Library: [illegible] Educating Oakland: The History of Oakland [illegible] 1852-1982 An exhibit, located in the history room, featuring documents, photographs, news clippings, certificates, and other ephemera from the Oakland Public School archives. Through Mar. 31. 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Collection of [illegible] Art and Life: [illegible] The Spill A multimedia video piece projected on the lobby wall, featuring the artist's own [illegible] spilling down a staircase, originally created with pastel, graphite, ash, and flour. Ongoing. July 4. **[illegible] The Spill** A multimedia video piece projected on the lobby wall, featuring the artist's drawings of milk pouring down a staircase originally created with pastel, graphite, ash, and flour. Through July 4. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: [illegible] Exhibit With 15 woodrails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinball from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hasse, Dan Miller, and [illegible] [illegible]. Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6348. PacificPinball.org.

[illegible] Gallery: Split [illegible] With new paintings by Frank Armstrong. Ongoing. Mar. 31. **[illegible]** With new [illegible] by [illegible]. Ongoing. Mar. 31. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-289-3535. [illegible]Gallery.com.

[illegible] Mary's College [illegible] of Art: Veils and [illegible] Space A [illegible] exhibition that explores the veil and its many forms and implications. With works from sculpture to new media by 30 contemporary women artists from [illegible] the world. Through Mar. 25. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-Ca.edu/Saint-Marys-College-Museum-of-Art.

[illegible] & [illegible]'s Workshop: Solo Exhibit of [illegible] [illegible] An exhibition of layered narratives. Through Mar. 25. 461 9th St., Oakland. 510-214-0784. [illegible].com.

Oakland [illegible] [illegible] With new detailed charcoal drawings by Bay Area artist [illegible]. Ongoing. Apr. 15. 1201 Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-0082. [illegible].org.

Berkeley 20 Gallery: Just Waiting for the [illegible] With new large-scale prints of dark matters [illegible], by Mary V. Marsh. Through Mar. 24. **Chairs** With works [illegible] fundamental human [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] who examines the way "chair" speaks in her visual language. Through Mar. 24. **[illegible] PHONE!** With works created using cell-phone cameras by [illegible], [illegible] King, Leah [illegible], Mary V. Marsh, [illegible] McLennan, Charlie [illegible], Paul Martin, and Mary Curtis Ratcliff. Through Mar. 24. 415 25th St., Oakland. 510-464-7185. [illegible].com.

Mythos Fine Art & Museum: Collages and Poster-Lips By surrealist filmmaker Lawrence [illegible] and the legendary artist Jess. Ongoing. Mar. 18. 1042 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-528-4911. MythosFineArt.com.

Oaklandish Mobile [illegible]-Women Art [illegible] With art, entertainment, and [illegible] [illegible]. Participating [illegible] [illegible] art works or installations. Third Thursday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Free. [illegible] [illegible] Park, between Grand and [illegible] avenues, Oakland. Oaklandish.org.

Oaklandish [illegible] Center: [illegible], [illegible] With oil [illegible] by [illegible] and paintings by John Wood. Ongoing. Mar. 17. 441 25th St., Oakland. 510-463-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Out [illegible] & [illegible]: [illegible] of [illegible] 4 [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] of [illegible] With detailed ink drawings by [illegible], [illegible] paintings by [illegible], new artwork by [illegible] [illegible] figures, [illegible] in geometric works of art by David Polka, and works by Robert Rowan. Through Apr. 5. 580 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-834-2300. [illegible].com.

Mercury [illegible] Gallery: [illegible] With [illegible] and black-and-white photographs by 18 [illegible] [illegible] photographers, [illegible] [illegible] landscapes, architecture, [illegible] and local details. Through Apr. 24. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1400. [illegible].com.

[illegible] for the Arts: [illegible] by Design A retrospective for late designer, sculptor, and [illegible] [illegible] Lee, with a [illegible] by Bay Area artist [illegible] [illegible] Through Mar. 18. 801 Berkeley Ave., Oakland. [illegible]ForTheArts.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Gallery: Earth [illegible]: An Environmental [illegible] With free-standing mixed media assemblage panels and a series of icons by Jon Rappel. Through Apr. 4. 2305 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-865-1185. [illegible].org.

Rag [illegible] Gallery: Night A solo [illegible] of New York artist [illegible] Weber's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], from a series 20 years in the making. Ongoing. Apr. 13. 455 17th St., Oakland. [illegible]Gallery.com.

San Pablo Art Gallery: The Art of Living [illegible] 2012 A [illegible] media from the Richmond Art Center with small and paintings by [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] West. Through Mar. 18. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

SLATE contemporary: [illegible] + [illegible] With paintings by [illegible] and photography by Catherine Roberts Leach. Plus urban and suburban photography by [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] on display in the hall gallery. Ongoing. Apr. 14. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-225-6000. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Temple: [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] and [illegible] artist and [illegible] [illegible]'s solo show features [illegible]-informed drawings and paintings. Ongoing. Mar. 22. 4010 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-461-2554. [illegible]Temple.com.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] by [illegible] LaFarge Ongoing. Apr. 1. [illegible] [illegible] With a new body of work by street artist [illegible] LaFarge. Through Mar. 31. 855 Broadway, Oakland. 415-828-2092.

San Francisco [illegible] of [illegible] Art: Oakland and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture [illegible] Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Kahlo, Mondrian, Klee, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Diebenkorn, et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale [illegible] and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design [illegible]** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography [illegible]** From the museum's vast holdings, pictures by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible] With paintings, including [illegible] [illegible], by visual artist Jeff [illegible]. Ongoing. Apr. 21. 365 29th St., Oakland. 510-452-4777. [illegible].com.

[illegible] [illegible] + Gallery: In the Space Between With new works of sculpture, photography, and work on paper by Jennifer [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible]. Through Apr. 15. 500 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2781. [illegible].com.

[illegible]'s Organic [illegible]: [illegible] First [illegible] The local 17-year-old's works include drawings of people in the East Bay who remain [illegible] in the face of hard times. Ongoing. Apr. 6. 4730 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-593-1987. [illegible].com.

Toyroom Contemporary: Beyond the [illegible] Photography by [illegible] Arnold, [illegible] [illegible], and Lothar Osterburg. Through Mar. 31. [illegible] 885 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-524-1714. [illegible].com.

UC Berkeley [illegible] [illegible]: Letters from [illegible] With paintings depicting [illegible] or [illegible] by Eva Bovenzi. Through May 4. 220 [illegible] Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-8001.

University Art Gallery, Cal State East Bay: Emerging Artists Exhibition With 33 works including paintings, prints, [illegible] [illegible] photographs, mixed-media works, and drawings. Juried by [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible]. Ongoing. Apr. 14. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3000. [illegible].CSUEastBay.edu/ArtGallery.

[illegible] [illegible]: [illegible] Stroll A weekly complement to Art Murmur, but with fewer festivities and more focus on the galleries. Visit [illegible] for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] A group show celebrating National Women's Month, with [illegible] Cartwright, [illegible] Martin, [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], Christy Kovacs, and [illegible] [illegible]. Ongoing. Mar. 28. 411 25th St., Oakland.

Vintage Berkeley: [illegible] Gardens and Paintings by Chris Donnelly With works [illegible] [illegible] of people and [illegible] of [illegible] from an upward perspective. Through Apr. 16. [illegible]. 2949 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-8503. [illegible]Berkeley.com.

[illegible] [illegible] Gallery: PostPoetry: A [illegible] [illegible] Exchange A group exhibition of work by students from UC Berkeley and Panama. The New School for Design [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a cross-country collaboration via mail. Through Mar. 24. 136 [illegible] Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-2587.

MUSEUMS

USS Hornet Museum: [illegible] [illegible] Experience Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the 442nd second generation Japanese-American troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. **TBM Avenger** WWII bomber [illegible] restored by volunteers. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco: In a New Light These works from the museum's collection represent an introduction to the major [illegible] of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Bancroft Library: Women to Vote, 1910-1920: [illegible] [illegible] the Women Suffrage Amendment An exhibition of [illegible], culled primarily from the University Archives' collections, examining the status of women on the UCB campus around the time California passed the Women's Suffrage Amendment. On display in the Rowell Cases (on the second floor corridor between the Doe and Bancroft libraries). Mondays-Fridays. [illegible] Ongoing. Mar. 30. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive: The [illegible]-Berkeley Fire, Aftermath Photographs by [illegible] [illegible]. Through Dec. 5. **[illegible]** An exhibit of [illegible] photographs by Sarah Charlesworth and Chris McCaw. Through May 6. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Snows** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology: The Magic Lantern: Illuminating a Bygone Era An exhibition of antique magic lanterns and glass slides from the turn of the 20th century. Ongoing. June 15. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3104.

Cartoon Art Museum: Spanish [illegible] A [illegible] on [illegible] for [illegible] that, [illegible] sale [illegible], [illegible] media, and technology. Daily. 655 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-227-8666. CartoonArt.org.

Exploratorium: Traits of Life A collection of exhibits and demonstrations examining the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

[illegible] Children's Museum: Shel Game The ongoing exhibition of Regan Cald[illegible]well's painting, *Shel Game, The Big Fix vs. The Missing Pieces*. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: from the [illegible] [illegible] From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus locations in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **[illegible] California** This "visible storage" exhibition [illegible] some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian [illegible]. Daily. 103 Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] of [illegible] Art, [illegible] of [illegible]: [illegible] Diversity through Oakland An ongoing group show. Daily. **[illegible] Art: [illegible]** A celebration of [illegible], of [illegible]. Daily. 3801 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-437-8989. [illegible].org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Science on a Sphere (SOS) New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, [illegible] [illegible] across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $6-$12. **Zoetrope** An [illegible] [illegible] that combines creativity with [illegible]. Activities include storytelling with stop-motion animation, human [illegible] design, and more. Ongoing. Apr. 29. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Berkeley [illegible] of [illegible] Art and Life: Projections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of Western documentary and experimental films. Daily. **Berkeley Lab** Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Oakland International Airport: All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area With reproductions of 80 posters by various artists, addressing social issues from modern US progressive movements. Exhibition stems from an Oakland project started by Free Speech Movement [illegible] [illegible] in 1977. Ongoing. May 13. 1 Airport Dr., Oakland.

Oakland Museum of California: Bay Bridge: [illegible] A video installation featuring interviews with 150 [illegible] [illegible] in eleven cities across the US. The exhibition explores themes of family love, interracial relationships, [illegible], education, violence, and more. Ongoing. July 8. Museum admission. **Counterpoint: Lisa Lodes and Peter Zandagium?** An ongoing series of work exploring the urban landscape of the East Bay. Ongoing. June 10. **Space-Light-Structure: The Jewelry of Margaret De Patta** A comprehensive examination of the life and art of the pioneering modernist artist and her influence on jewelry making. Through May 13. Museum admission. **Space-Light-Structure: The Jewelry of Margaret De Patta** A retrospective exhibition on the work of pioneer jeweler Margaret De Patta, featuring more than 80 jewelry pieces as well as ceramics, textiles, photographs, photograms, and newly released archival material. Through May 13. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. 2. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland [illegible] Library, [illegible] [illegible]: Educating Oakland: The History of Oakland Public Schools 1852-1982 An exhibit, located in the library's Oakland History Room, featuring documents, photographs, news clippings, certificates, and other ephemera from the Oakland Public School archives. Through Mar. 31. 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: [illegible] [illegible] With 15 woodrails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinball from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hasse, Dan Miller, and [illegible] [illegible]. Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6348. PacificPinball.org.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art: Veils and Transitional Space A documentary exhibition that explores the veil and its many forms and implications. With works from sculpture to new media by 30 contemporary women artists from around the world. Through Mar. 25. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-Ca.edu/Saint-Marys-College-Museum-of-Art.

San Francisco International Airport: A Sharp Lens: Microscopes from the Age of Enlightenment to the Atomic Century An exhibit featuring a selection of antique microscopes from the Golub Collection at UC Berkeley. On display in International Terminal A3. Through June 30. 780 [illegible], San Francisco. 650-821-6711.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: Oakland and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Bonnard, Mondrian, Klee, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Diebenkorn, et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum: [illegible] [illegible] Experience Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the 442nd second generation Japanese-American troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. **TBM Avenger** WWII bomber [illegible] restored by volunteers. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org. ●

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Comedy Hill With Steve Thompson, Fanny Allen, and Renee Hau. Hosted by Joe Oakland/Lane Oakland/Kolektor. Sat., Mar. 17, 9 p.m., $10, 510-238-9890, Comedy@BroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Comedy at the Layover Weekly stand-up with rotating comedians. Ages 21 and up. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m., free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517 OaklandLayover.com.

Irish Comics With Michael Meehan, Tony Bohannon, Mac Curry, and Joey Devine, hosted by Joe Gerardi and Sampson Kaleihue. Thu., Mar. 15, 8 p.m., $10, 510-238-2600, Comedy@BroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] ContinentalComedy.com.

Open Mic Comedy Showcase With clean, "made for TV" comedy hosted by LeRoy Bonfield. Fridays, 9 p.m., $5-$10. Brook Rosemary Theater, 3018 Martin St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Tony Dijamco With Sam Dipaolo, Hye Holliman, and Red Reyes. Fri., Mar. 16, 8 p.m., $10, 510-238-2600, Comedy@BroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge, One Broadway, at Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Tony Dijamco With Rob Lieberman, Colleen Watson, and Drew Holland. Sat., Mar. 17, 7:30 & 9 p.m., $10. [illegible] Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin, 925-255-6403, [illegible]Comedy.com.

The Kosher Story Comedic improv show with Oakland, Fara. Saturdays, 9 p.m., $10. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-261-9540, PanTheater.com.

LIVE VARIETY

The Ladies' Differential With Eastern Art Center's Circus Tune Youth [illegible]. Fridays, 7 p.m., Sundays, 12 & 5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 25. $10-$30. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/217210. [illegible] Theatre, 720 7th St., Oakland, 510-444-4400.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

#13 Playwrights Showcase With readings of student work from Philip Kan Gotanda's UC Berkeley playwriting class. Mar. 15-17, 7 p.m., free. Durham Studio Theater, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-409-3099, Theater.berkeley.edu.

Breaking Ground: Critical Dialogues in Drama and Media Dr. Thomas DeFrantz and Dr. Fred Moten lead a performance-symposium, engaging critical dialogues in sound and motion in the context of black performance. Thu., Mar. 15, 4-6:30 p.m. Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

Dividing the Estate Horton Foote's dark comedy about a family facing hard times during the 1980s oil bust in Texas. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thu., Mar. 15, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. $20-$28. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, DMTonline.org.

A Doctor in Spite of Himself Christopher Bayes' and Steven Epp's contemporary adaptation of Molière's classic comedy. No [illegible] on select dates. Call or check website. Tuesdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Mar. 25. $14.50-$73. Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Joel Reed's *The Kipling Hotel: True Improbable Adventures of the Electric Pink 88s* Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper and a gigolo to his stint as a live-in waiter at a downtown hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through May 6. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Fusion Theatre: *[illegible] Alice in Sudderland* Michael [illegible] directs a production of the classic children's story with an Oakland twist, whereby Alice journeys to a decidedly local locale like Sudderland University, an Oakland [illegible], and more. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. $10, 510-981-8530, https://Sites.Google.com/site/LaneyFusionTheater. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-7368.

Grounded A solo show written and performed by Arle Ramdetel, in which she portrays an "out-of-control" sexually charged mind overwhelmed by grief. Sat., Mar. 17, 8-9:30 p.m., $10-$20. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

Mesmeric Revelation A Cordite Works adaptation written and directed by Aaron Henne inspired by a story by Edgar Allen Poe. Sundays, 3 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 18. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7800, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Monday Night Playground A staged reading series of short works by new and emerging playwrights. Third Monday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 19. 415-992-6677, PlayGround-SF.org. Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

The Mousetrap A 60-year-anniversary production of Agatha Christie's detective whodunnit; "the longest running 'straight' play in the West End." Starting Mar. 16. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.; Mon., Mar. 19, 8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 22. $18-$22. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553, Altarena.org.

Three Lives The final show of performance artist Kim Tran's autobiographical one-man show about his 1979 escape from wartorn Saigon as an ethnic Chinese/Vietnamese refugee. Mar. 15-18, 8 p.m., $16-$25. Subterranean Arthouse, 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, SubterraneanArthouse.org.

Titus Andronicus [illegible] directs William Shakespeare's tragedy about a Roman general who, upon returning from war, finds himself pushed to succeed the recently deceased emperor. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Mar. 31. $17-$20. ImpactTheatre.com. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

Vagina Monologues Held in conjunction with V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women. Proceeds benefit Bay Area Women Against Rape. Ages 21 and up. Through Mar. 15, 8 p.m., $25. VDay.org. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100, UptownNightclub.com.

PICKS

The Pirates of Penzance

Like many children's productions, Jon Tracy's new punk rock version of the Savoy opera *Pirates of Penzance* is remarkably loose and knowing. Perhaps that's a matter of artistic integrity, since Tracy would never dream of dumbing down his plays just to mollify a young audience. But it could also be a matter of pleasing the implied adult audience, and convincing them that musical theater is a far better use of two hours than, say, plopping your kid in front of the boob tube. Many would concur, especially since Tracy's *Penzance* might be more entertaining for adults than for kids. He altered the script but retained some of the archaic and lewd language (including a reference to orphan molestation, and a song about carousing on the high seas) and didn't shy away from prurience — John Paul "JP" Gonzalez, who plays the male lead, wears a pair of short, tattered pirate shorts that show off his Tina Turner legs. More importantly, though, Tracy poached influences from all parts of the pop culture ecosystem: punk rock, *Robocop*, Jean-Pierre Jeunet films, and even the 1983 film by Joseph Papp. He's evidently not worried about the kids understanding everything; what's more crucial is that this *Penzance* stands alone, as art. *Through Apr. 1 at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts (2640 College Ave., Berkeley). $17-$35. BerkeleyPlayhouse.org.* — *Rachel Swan*

Megan Jakel of Alvin Ailey

Andrew Eccles

Alvin Ailey

Big changes are afoot at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which returns to Cal Performances Wednesday-Sunday, March 14-18, with new Artistic Director Robert Battle at the helm and fresh contemporary choreography mixed in with repertory gems. The trick, as always, is choosing which of the three programs to see: A includes Ohad Naharin and Rennie Harris, B brings Paul Taylor and Battle himself, and C mixes Harris, Ailey, and Ulysses Dove. Catching all three is not out of the question, as they'll all be danced with passion and grace by Ailey's impeccably gorgeous company. One thing that hasn't changed is *Revelations*, a favorite since 1960, Ailey's roof-raising crowd pleaser closes every show — once the encores are finished. Ailey performs at Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Ave. below Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) Wed.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. $30-$80. 510-642-9988 or CalPerformances.org — *Claudia Bauer*

UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM & PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE

STATE OF MIND
NEW CALIFORNIA ART CIRCA 1970
ON VIEW THROUGH JUNE 17

"A DENSE, SEEMINGLY ENCYCLOPEDIC PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL ART FROM UP AND DOWN THE COAST SHOT THROUGH WITH VARIOUS FORMS OF SATIRE, POLITICAL FURY AND EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY" — *NEW YORK TIMES*

FRIDAY, MARCH 16
FLASHBACK 1970S PERFORMANCES BY
LINDA MARY MONTANO, JIM MELCHERT, ADAM II
THREE IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE ARTISTS REVISIT WORKS FROM THE 1970S

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
HERE IS ALWAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE
✻ RENE DAALDER'S FILM EXPLORES THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF CONCEPTUAL ARTIST BAS JAN ADER

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the Economics of Happiness

THE ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS
SPECIAL SCREENING

The Economics of Happiness describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance—and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to forge a very different future. Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm – an economics of localization.

We hear from a chorus of voices from six continents including Samdhong Rinpoche, the Prime Minister of Tibet's government in exile, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten and Zac Goldsmith. They tell us that climate change and peak oil give us little choice: we need to localize, to bring the economy home. The good news is that as we move in this direction we will begin not only to heal the earth but also to restore our own sense of well-being. The Economics of Happiness restores our faith in humanity and challenges us to believe that it is possible to build a better world.

For more information about the film
www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org

For information about the conference March 23-25th 2012 at the
David Brower Center in Berkeley California
www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org/conference

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 | 5:45-7:45 PM
A Q&A panel will follow after the film, hosted by
Judy Colley, Publisher, East Bay Express
Erin Kilmer Neel, Program Officer, One PacificCoast Foundation
Kirsten Schwind, Program Director, Bay Localize

Koret Auditorium – Lower Level – Main Library
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COMEDY

WOMEN ON MARS

If the all-woman cast of Femikaze can't colonize a bromosphere, they'll at least invade it.

By Rachel Swan

Amber Gregory
All the members of Femikaze have stage backgrounds.

The conceit behind "Little House on the Planet" would be familiar to anyone who grew up reading Laura Ingalls Wilder's books, or watching the *Little House on the Prairie* TV series. The "Planet" version stars Kay-e Allen as Laura, the country girl whose family has decided to resettle in an environment that's far more desolate than the banks of Plum Creek or the shores of Silver Lake. In this place the sky is pink, the ground is rocky, and a lowing space cow is the only form of nourishment. Laura's sister Mary (Kirsten Macauley), who was blinded by scarlet fever, scoffs as Laura describes the strange landscape, while a listless Mrs. Ingalls (Natasha Mese) sits indolently in her rocking chair, quietly wishing the family would return to Wisconsin. Only Pa (Evangeline Reilly) is happy with the new homestead. In his eagerness to start anew he blithely ignores a Martian neighbor (Therese Garcia) who comes to scope out — and possibly root out — the Ingalls family.

Structured as an homage of sorts, "Little House" is one of about seventeen skits that the all-female comedy troupe Femikaze will perform at its Women's History Month showcase, slated to happen the last two weeks of March at Subterranean Arthouse in Berkeley. The sketches, which vary in length from 45-second inserts to full-fledged narratives, include a whole panoply of relevant historical characters: Butterfly McQueen, Marie Curie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Gloria Steinem, J.K. Rowling, Toni Morrison, and even a zombie Sojourner Truth. Founders Ira Hopkins and Kelly Anneken collaborated on most of the writing, albeit with the help of several cast members. The actors, all women, share equal stage time. The point, Anneken and Hopkins declare in no uncertain terms on their website, is to promulgate "the radical notion that women are funny."

Show Details
At Subterranean Arthouse (2179 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley) Fridays & Saturdays, Mar. 23-31, 9 p.m., $10. Femikaze.com

"Radical" might be a point of contention, but Anneken says it's not a joke. Launching her standup career in the Bay Area a couple years ago, she quickly discovered the scene was a veritable bromosphere. While that doesn't mean outright hostility to female participants, it does mean that women comedians are routinely outnumbered. "It can be very lonely," Anneken said.

She met Hopkins on the standup circuit a little more than a year ago, and the two of them clicked instantly. Both had theater backgrounds, considered themselves unrepentant feminists, and consumed *Sex in the City* with a fervor that few other Bay Area comedians could comprehend. In fact that was the impetus for their first sketch, called "Sex and the Cheney." It starred caricature versions of the four affluent New Yorkers who've become so iconic in pop culture — a shadowy vice president stood in for the elusive Mr. Big.

The acting group was born shortly thereafter, when Anneken and Hopkins enlisted a few other women to participate in Marga Gomez's "Comedy Brunch" showcase at The Marsh Theater in Berkeley. Over the past year they posted Craigslist ads and recruited by word-of-mouth, ultimately amassing a group of ten women. Racially diverse and conspicuously heterogeneous, Femikaze has gone through a few different iterations to arrive at its current cast. The one constant is that everyone has a stage background. The founders held auditions for all new recruits, usually requiring everyone to read a short monologue: "Dating and the Scientific Method with Deidre Darwin."

Women's issues are certainly a chief preoccupation for Femikaze, and the group tends to be unsparing in its social commentary. "Sex and Dick Cheney" was a fairly brutal takedown of the HBO TV show (Anneken dismissed it in a recent email as "a guy's idea of what women are like"). "Totalitarian Fitness" offered tips for the woman who wants to look like a sexy dictator ("Do you wish you looked as good shirtless as Vladimir Putin does?" Anneken asked, gazing imperiously at her audience beneath a blond Suzanne Somers wig). But some of the pieces are gentler types. "Tree's Company," which stars Anneken and Hopkins in a triangular relationship with "some plant from Craigslist," is a good-humored satire of the old sitcom. While the writers feel no compunction about desecrating a couple characters in "Little House," they also show a certain reverence for the source material — at least, they've read enough Wilder to know all the plot points.

After "Comedy Brunch" fizzled out, Femikaze moved its operations to Berkeley's Subterranean Arthouse, where it now holds themed shows several times a year. The fall edition was devoted to Halloween; March is International Women's month; summer's appropriately douchey tagline is "A Femikaze Summer's Eve." Artist-friendly and economical, the venue has allowed these performers to try increasingly elaborate ideas while hewing to their mission. Cast members say they'd eventually like to find a new home in Oakland, where most of them live. For now, though, they're content to colonize Mars. Figuratively speaking, that is. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

The Man Next Door

Ellen Ullman explores her inner darkness.

Ellen Ullman's first two books — the memoir *Close to the Machine* and the Kafkaesque coding thriller *The Bug* — both took place in a world the author knew quite well: computer programming. For *By Blood*, Ullman stepped away from bits and bytes to craft a wickedly smart, deeply creepy thriller of the San Francisco Gothic kind. *By Blood* takes what would be a normal, compelling mystery — that of an adopted woman's origins — and tells it from an unusual perspective, one that deepens the book's complexity even as it unspools the core mystery. A disgraced classics professor, attempting to write a series of lectures in a rented office downtown, becomes obsessed with a patient of the therapist next door, falling deeply in thrall of the analysand's questions of identity. The thin walls create a blind voyeuristic intimacy that the professor revels in. Similar walls provided the book's first spark of inspiration for Ullman, who has a small writing office in an old building similar to the one in *By Blood*. "The neighboring office, on the other side of a thin door, once held a matchmaking service," said Ullman. "I could hear the prospective couples being introduced, then their first attempts at conversation." Ullman told the matchmaker that she could hear everything, and the woman waved her off. "It was her choice to let me keep listening, and listen I did."

Ellen Ullman

The narrator of *By Blood* doesn't make himself known — he remains nameless and faceless to therapist, patient, and reader alike. Though he ultimately cannot keep himself from influencing events, but he is anonymous and unnoticed. His line of work renders him hopelessly old-fashioned; his bouts of paranoia and depression alienate him further, keeping him from connecting to the rapidly-changing Bay Area of 1974. His voice came to Ullman late one night, "and would not let go. I did not want to stay in that voice. I thought I'd set out to write a story about a young woman who searches for her origins; she will find them in post-war Europe; this narrator seemed to be taking me on a big detour....

"I once took an acting class, and I remember the teacher saying that you create a character by finding that part of you that is the character and then expanding it, filling it out. The narrator is that part of me that is quite dark. I didn't want to expand him. He expanded himself."

Though she was surprised by the force with which this character gripped her, Ullman wasn't so shocked to find her Gothic side so easily accessed, given the books that inspired her early on: Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Wilkie Collins. "It's an odd experience to see how little my sensibilities have changed in relation to these dark tales. In many ways, it seems I'm still the high school kid who was forced to memorize 'The Raven,' and, despite the coercion, kept loving it."

Ellen Ullman appears on Wednesday, March 21, at Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) in conversation with Jaron Lanier, who also has a new novel, *You Are Not a Gadget*, and wrote the introduction to the new edition of *Close to the Machine* (*The Bug* is also being reissued). *Zyzzyva* Managing Editor Oscar Villalon introduces the pair. 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com

— *Stefanie Kalem*

LECTURES

Ajay Gehlawat: "She's in the Story: On the Shifting Dynamics of Whiteness in Bollywood" The associate professor of theatre and film at Sonoma State University discusses the evolving representations of whiteness in Bollywood film. Thu., Mar. 15, 5-7 p.m. Center for South Asia Studies, 10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-3608.

Anthony J. Cascardi: "Cervantes, Literature, and the Discourse of Politics" The dean of Arts and Humanities and professor of comparative literature, rhetoric, and Spanish at UC Berkeley, in conversation with author and teacher Robert [illegible], discusses the place of literature within the state. Thu., Mar. 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585, UniversityPressBooks.com.

Ben Hellwarth: "Sealab: America's Forgotten Quest to Live and Work on the Ocean Floor" The author discusses his new book about how the US Navy program tried to develop the marine equivalent of the space station, and why it pulled the plug. Fri., Mar. 16, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Documentary Film Screening and Discussion With a screening of [illegible] followed by a discussion with Mark [illegible], the film's author, producer and star. Thu., Mar. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

Dr. Bertram Lubin: "Stem Cells: Their Promise and Potential" The president and chief executive officer of Oakland's Children's Hospital and Research Center discusses the number of stem cell research in the [illegible]. Thu., Mar. 15, 6:30-8 p.m. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2801, Peralta.edu.

Dr. Carol Queen Interviews Good Vibrations Founder Joani Blank Learn about how the 35-year-old sex toy shop got its start. Fri., Mar. 16, 7-8 p.m. Good Vibrations Lakeshore, 3219 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-788-2300, GoodVibes.com.

Dr. Samia Altaf: "Why Foreign Aid Does not Work in Countries like Pakistan" The author and public health physician discusses the shortcomings of foreign aid in certain countries. Fri., Mar. 16, 12-2 p.m. Center for South Asia Studies, 10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley. 510-642-3608.

Mark and Cathy Pemberton: "Exploring [illegible]" The hot rock adventurers give a digital presentation and discussion of their recent trip exploring the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau. Thu., Mar. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Michael Klare: "The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources" KPFA's Philip Maldari hosts a discussion with the author about how to combat the world's resource depletion. Thu., Mar. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $12-$15. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/225847. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

Panel Discussion: "The Iranian Crisis: Is War Inevitable?" With Avner Cohen of the Monterey Institute, Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment, and Shibley Telhami of the University of Maryland, College Park. Mon., Mar. 19, 4-6 p.m. 510-642-1472. Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

Raymond Bonner: "Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong" The London-based investigative reporter is joined in conversation with Mark Danner, UC Berkeley's Chancellor's Professor of Journalism, Politics and English, to discuss his book about a controversial murder case. In room 132. Thu., Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m. Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

Robert Sapolsky: "Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers: Stress, Health, and Coping" The neuroendocrinology and stress expert discusses ulcers. Wed., Mar. 21, 7-9 p.m. $10. Las Positas Community College Multi-Disciplinary Building Lecture Hall, Room 2420, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

[illegible] Arab Feminists for [illegible]: Women & Discussion: An International Women's Month film series screening and discussion on revolutionary Arab women. Thu., Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m., donation accepted. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

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LAUREL BOOKSTORE STAFF PICKS

Passing Love

By Jacqueline Luckett
$14.99
Published: Grand Central Publishing 1/25/12

Oakland Author! Moving back and forth in time between the sparkling Paris of today and the jazz-fueled city filled with expatriates in the 1950s, Passing Love is the story of two women dealing with lost love, secrets, and betrayal. A wonderful second novel by an author worth following. In store reading March 14 at 7pm

The Edge of Maybe

By Ericka Lutz
$15.95
Published
Last Light Studio 2/12

Oakland Author! Adam and Kira Glazer live a Northern California liberal lifestyle, entering middle age with politically correct values, an obsession with gourmet organic food, and no idea what has happened to their punk rock, adventurous youth. Then, a shocking reminder of the past lands on their doorstep. The characters feel familiar and are memorable long after the last page is turned. In store reading April 14 at 7pm

No Passengers Beyond This Point

By Gennifer Choldenko
$8.99
Published: Penguin 2/12

Local Author! Siblings India, Finn, and Mouse are stunned when their mom tells them they are flying tomorrow—without her—to their Uncle Red's home in Colorado. But things take an even more dramatic turn when their plane lands in a very unusual place. A mysterious driver meets them at the airport, when he drops them off at their destination, each kid suddenly has a clock with a different amount of time left. Something mysterious and wonderful for the 10 and up set.

PEGASUS SHATTUCK STAFF PICKS

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?

By Jeanette Winterson
$25 Publisher: Grove Press 3/2012

Winterson's vivid memoir reads for the first half like a novel on love, yearning, displacement and survival, and the second half as a psychological record on finding and being found. Both are deeply involving for reaching, and delve into the heart's stories without fear. Winterson grew up in industrial North England. Largely unloved, often (and) prone to falling in love with other young women, unlikely to obey and voraciously reading everything she could find, and survived to be locked out at 16. Now here she is, taking a good hard look at her wounded life and knitting herself together, becoming whole.

How to Be Black

By Baratunde Thurston $24.99
Publisher: Harper 1/2012

"Have you ever been called 'too black' or 'not black enough'? Have you ever befriended or worked with a black person? Have you ever heard of 'black people'? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this book is for you." From How to Be Black

Baratunde Thurston, of The Onion and Jack & Jill Politics, deftly explores blackness in America today with humor and insight, mixing stories from his childhood, political analysis, and a panel comprised of three black men, three black women, and Christian Lander (of Stuff White People Like) answering questions as, "When did you first realize you were black?" and "How's that post-racial thing working out for you?"

Why We Broke Up

by Daniel Handler
Illustrated by Maira Kalman
$19.99 Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers 12/2011 (Printz Award Honor Book)

This novel tells the story of Min Green and how she and Ed Slaterton met at a party, saw a movie, followed an old woman, shared a hotel room and broke each other's hearts. Written in precise detail by Handler (occasionally known as Lemony Snicket) and awesomely illustrated by Kalman in her trademark style, this book is for everyone who's ever broken up and needed to know if it's really ready to be better to know why. (Also: it's really heavy. Ever realize how Maira Kalman's books are really heavy? We like that.)

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PICKS

Marc Lewis

Developmental psychologist and neuroscience researcher Marc Lewis comes to the science of addiction from a unique perspective — that of an addict. *Memoirs of an Addicted Brain* charts his course from booze and cough syrup to LSD and heroin, from boarding school to Berkeley to Calcutta to crime. Lewis talks about addiction as an irresistible human urge at Books Inc. (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 15, 7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or BooksInc.net — *Stefanie Kalem*

Aimee Phan

The [illegible]-year-old heroine of *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong* flees SoCal for her parents' homeland, Vietnam, to fetch her wayward older brother — unraveling a buried family history along the way. The debut novel by CCA professor, Oakland resident, and award-winning short fiction writer Aimee Phan is rife with rich, focused scenes and quietly fascinating people. Phan reads on Friday, Mar. 16 at Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland), 7 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com — *S.K.*

Emily Pettit and Lauren Ireland

You say you are [illegible] help yourself. Sweet [illegible] and sweep./You are such an ambulance stuck in traffic. Disparate images bump against each other in the poetry of Emily Pettit, shaking hidden emotions out of the spaces between. The Massachusetts-based poet and editor joins fellow poet Lauren Ireland, of San Francisco, on Friday, Mar. 16, at Book Zoo (6395 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) for a reading hosted by Small Press Distribution's Clay Banes. 7 p.m., free. 510-654-2645 or BookZoo.net — *S.K.*

Suzzy Roche

If you've ever heard the music of folk sister act The Roches, it should come as no surprise that a novel by one of them should be sweetly irreverent. Suzzy Roche's *Wayward Saints* boasts the former lead singer of a band called Sheed Ham, a late lover named Garbaggio, and a fraught return to the protagonist's hometown of Swallow, New York. Ask Suzzy whatever happened to Mr. Sullack when she reads and plays music on Tuesday, Mar. 20 at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland). 7 p.m., free. 510-339-8210 or GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com — *S.K.*

510-843-2588, LaPena.org.

Wayne Horowitz: "Earth: The Babylonian Map of the Issues and the Wind" The Hebrew University professor discusses specific aspects of Mesopotamian cosmology in room 254. Thu., Mar. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. 510-642-3858. Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Yuan-Tsuh Lee: "Life Experiences and Taiwanese Identity" The Taiwanese professor and Nobel Prize winner gives a speech to raise awareness of Taiwan, specifically Taiwanese identity. Thu., Mar. 15, 7-8 p.m. Joyce Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. Berkeley.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

Aimee Phan A publication party for the author's new book, *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong*. Fri., Mar. 16, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965, DieselBookstore.com.

Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

Big Yes Sweets Discussion Group Discussing [illegible] *[illegible]*. Thu., Mar. 15, 7 p.m. [illegible], 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

California Writers Club [illegible] Literary Agent [illegible] writing for the young adult market. In the [illegible] Community Room. Sun., Mar. 18, 2-4 p.m. 510-238-3134. CWC-Berkeley.com. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] The creator of the [illegible] mysteries reads from her latest installment, *Murder at the [illegible]*. Thu., Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] Reading from his newly published book, *[illegible] Landscape, or A Guide for [illegible]*. Fri., Mar. 16, 7:30-9 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] The Oakland [illegible] reads their new novels, [illegible] and *You Are Not a Gadget*, respectively. Wed., Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

eReader Backstore Learn how to use your Kindle and iPad to [illegible] library eBooks. Thu., Mar. 15, 4:30-6 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

First Person Singular Presents: "[illegible] Nancy Drew Noir" With Lydia [illegible], Richard Lowe, and special guest [illegible] "The Case of Noir". Wed., Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Solano, 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-6888. PegasusBookstore.com.

Friday Night Librations and Poetry Readings and Open Mike With [illegible] Sisson, [illegible] and [illegible]. Fri., Mar. 16, 7-9 p.m. Expressions Gallery, 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Geoff Dyer The British author shares his new book, *Zona: A Book About a Film about a Journey to a Room*, reads Andrei Tarkovsky's film *Stalker*. Thu., Mar. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, 10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-273-0102. RialtoCinemas.com.

[illegible] and Speakeasy 55 Thursdays Open mic poetry, followed at [illegible] p.m. by dancing, poetry, [illegible], and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. donations accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

[illegible] The Minnesota-based poet reads from her recent collection of [illegible] "Russian literary icons, international adoptions, and found objects from St. Petersburg" [illegible]. Sat., Mar. 17, 4 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

June Jordan's Poetry for the People The program's 29th anniversary celebration features workshops, poems, performances, open-mics, book signings, and more. [illegible] Fri., 140 [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley; Sat., Multicultural Center [illegible] of UC Berkeley's MLK [illegible] Union. Mar. 16-17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. free adult day, $5-$20 each evening. Facebook.com/PoetryfortheePeople.

[illegible] and Distance Light UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism Center for Photography presents a reception and book signing for *Valley of Shadows and Oakland* in room 105. Fri., Mar. 16, [illegible] p.m. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Lyrics and Dingus Presents: An Intergenerational Oakland Youth Special With [illegible], [illegible] Cavanaugh, [illegible], Heather Bourbeau, and [illegible]. Wed., Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Marc Lewis Berkeley-born, his new book, *Memoirs of an Addicted Brain: A Neuroscientist Examines His Former Life on* Drugs. Thu., Mar. 15, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

[illegible] Discussing [illegible] *A Painter's Life*. Wed., Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Playreaders A weekly group for adults to read aloud from great plays, changing parts frequently. Meets in the [illegible] Story Room. Wednesdays, noon. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Poetry Flash With [illegible] and [illegible]. Thu., Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Poetry Flash With [illegible] and [illegible] Singleton. Sun., Mar. 18, 3 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

The [illegible] Oakland The group formerly known as Book Group #1 [illegible]. Tue., Mar. 20, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

[illegible] The author discusses and signs his book, *The Book of Jonas*. Sun., Mar. 18, 11 a.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. [illegible].

Suzzy Roche Reading from her novel, *Wayward Saints*, and playing music. Tue., Mar. 20, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

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Valley of Shadows & Oakland An exhibition of a book of contemporary photographs highlighting socioeconomic issues in the Central Valley by [illegible] Light, with text by [illegible]. Through May 15. Center for Photography, [illegible] Hall, Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley.

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The Cuban fried chicken was a rousing success Stan Dudley

CAÑA'S SPLIT PERSONALITY

The Grand Lake restaurant serves both "authentic" and multicult Cuban cuisine

By Jesse Hirsch

"Nothing is authentic anymore." These are not the words of an angst-addled teenager lashing out at posers and copycats. Neither is it the thesis from a dissertation on post-modern literature. No, these are the curious sentiments of Diego Salinas, chef at Grand Lake's newish Cuban restaurant Caña.

Salinas' words have an especially odd cadence when you factor in Caña's tagline, "The Bay Area's only authentic Cuban restaurant venue." But consider the source: After emigrating from Colombia, Salinas graduated from the French-influenced California Culinary Academy, and he's worked more than twenty years at various ethnic mash-up restaurants (Miss Pearl's Jam House, Ana de Cuba). The food at his most recent stint, Circolo in San Francisco, was "Nuevo Latino with an Asian twist."

Salinas rejects the term "authentic" because he's witnessed how fluid global cuisine can be. Cultures migrate, non-native ingredients are introduced, chefs improvise and every day new sacraments are born. If you worry too much about following tradition, you could miss your chance to make improvements.

That's why Salinas is conflicted. On one hand, his employers are carving out a niche in an underserved category: real deal Cuban street food (the kind purists won't bitch about on Chowhound). On the other hand, he's itchy to play ethnic alchemist, adding squid ink, ginger and lobster hash to his *ropa vieja* and *lechon asado*. Luckily, this duality can be accommodated.

Caña is divided into two adjacent restaurants with a clearly demarcated menu style, vibe, and ambiance. On the left is Caña Parlor, whose dark, roomy expanse is perked up with a handful of crude and splashy Latin-ish paintings. A long bar lines the center, the bartender wears a tropical shirt and a newsboy hat, and rows of small-batch tequilas beckon from a mirrored perch. It's a clean rendition of a seamy Cuban nightspot: you can picture the overhead fans on a lazy spin while heated dancers (dressed all in white, natch) press the flesh below. *Havana Nights* fantasies aside, it's where you go for a low-lit date, to sample what happens when Salinas' imagination runs unchecked.

On the right is Caña Café, a tiny daytime space with exposed brick and bright-blue fiesta walls. For breakfast you can get a light Latin pastry and Blue Bottle pour-over, and there's a short list of traditional Cuban street foods for lunch. The cafe is bright and airy, opening onto a streetside patio. Many patrons — especially on farmers' market days — order food to go.

Salinas chomps at the bit to display his culinary savoir-faire, but the cafe's simplest food is also its most successful. Take that familiar old dog, the Cuban sandwich: shreds of marinated pork butt, crisp on the edges but not too dry, thinly sliced ham, a blanket of half-melted Swiss, and a trio of pickle spears coaxing the top of the house-baked pan Cubano. The bottom of the sandwich sucked too much moisture from the pork, but it was a minor blemish.

One of Caña's empanadas was filled with a traditional ground beef *picadillo* cooked in tomato and pepper *sofrito* sauce and mixed with olives and raisins. The veggie version deftly mimicked beef's texture with a blend of portobello, crimini, and button mushrooms — more than one suspicious vegetarian has demanded reassurance they're not eating meat. Both empanadas were moist and familiarly spiced (cumin, garlic, sherry) with scallop-edged, feathery crusts.

The buttermilk-soaked, Cuban fried chicken was another rousing success. After marinating in a traditional garlic-based mojo sauce, the jerk-spiced chicken pieces were breaded and quick-fried, a perfectly seasoned wedding of crisp and juicy. Scavengers would find little sustenance after I finished working those bones.

Possibly a victim of Salinas' excess ambition or maybe still finding its footing (the parlor is a newer addition), Caña's dinner menu was less surefooted. There wasn't much oomph in the $7 black bean bisque, save for a hint of cumin and cacao. A jiggling mass of slow-braised oxtail was cast into a thick pool of *sofrito* gravy, with the fat-to-flesh ratio skewing high toward the former. Accompanying coconut rice and pigeon peas were solid, save for some uncooked rice bits. Meticulously plated guava-glazed short ribs were prettier than they were tender: a muscular gnaw was required.

Dinner's true standout was the Spanish-style stuffed *piquillo* peppers, filled with a creamy, coconut-accented paste of salt cod and potato cubes. The dish could have stopped there, but Salinas serves the peppers under a visually arresting squid ink bath, scattering some microgreens on the silken darkness to finish.

Dessert was a heavy flan, served under sticky mango coulis. There was an unusually satisfying heft to the little custard mound, though purists would decry its excess density.

Caña
530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland
510-832-1515 or CanaOakland.com
Hours: Mon.-Thu. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Reservations accepted
Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express

Sample Menu

Cubano sandwich	$9.50
Empanadas	2 for $8
Cuban Fried Chicken	3-pc. for $9/5-pc. for $12
Cod-stuffed piquillo peppers in squid ink	$12
Slow-braised oxtail in *sofrito*	$18

If Salinas has his way, Caña's riffs on Cuban food will stray even farther from its roots. For instance, he recently pulled *ropa vieja* from the menu for a re-boot. When it returns, it will be "deconstructed" and accompanied with blue cheese-filled crepes, watermelon radishes, and a Trinidadian chocolate pepper sauce. And, recently, he even introduced a (terribly named) "*Makeover* Appetizer," pairing dry boat scallops with *malanga* purée, an *amarillo* foam, beet gastrique, and red tobiko caviar.

I see no inherent issue with Salinas' tweaks. Cuban food itself is a centuries-old amalgam influenced by Spanish conquistadors, African slaves, Caribbean neighbors, and indigenous produce. If Salinas wants to start making tostones with [illegible] and huckleberry purée, then have at it. It's not a matter of principle; I just think his simpler food comes out better.

Besides, with so few Cuban spots in the Bay Area, it would be nice if Caña's cafe menu remained a sanctuary for traditionalists. "One Cuban sandwich, hold the black pepper Zinfandel reduction ..." ●

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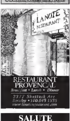

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WHAT THE FORK

SWEET BAR BAKERY COMES TO UPTOWN

Plus ethical meat discourse from the Bay Area's top butchers

By Jesse Hirsch

Let's get this out of the way: Mani Niall was Michael Jackson's personal chef for a few years in the Eighties. It wasn't a career-defining moment, and his other accomplishments have been a lot more substantive — starting an iconic artisan bakery, blazing trails for restricted-diet eaters, and writing three cookbooks. But if his association with the King of Pop helps get his name out there, Niall doesn't mind.

For the last six years Niall kept a modest public profile as executive chef at Just Desserts, the San Francisco-based wholesale bakery with a huge facility near the Oakland Airport. But now that he's opening Sweet Bar Bakery in Uptown, Niall wants you to remember his name. "At this point the Michael Jackson thing is kind of like, 'Who cares?'" he said. "But I like how it gets people talking."

In Southern California, Niall needs no introduction. In 1990 he started Mani's Bakery, an organic LA patisserie that gained wide notice for catering to emergent dietary trends. Celebs flocked to Mani's for his vegan and wheat-free baking, back before everyone was doing it.

Niall eventually burned out, moved to the Bay, and became a product developer. He was drawn to Just Desserts by the allure of a consistent paycheck and benefits, but two years ago he got the itch to run his own business again. For months, Niall closely watched the struggling Mimosa Champagne Lounge on Broadway and 24th. When he got the text message "It closed," he pounced on the space.

Niall is enamored with everything about his new location. It used to be a sweets shop called McFarlanes from 1946 to 1976. It's part of the well-worn Art Murmur footpath. The New Parkway is re-opening less than a block away. Uptown Uptown Uptown.

Running 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sweet Bar will offer coffee and baked goods in the morning, sandwiches for the lunchtime worker bees, and beer and wine served late. Niall's baked goods will focus on the sweet, with extra love for vegans and gluten-free dieters.

The next step is for Niall to close out his Kickstarter campaign. With only a few days left, he's looking to raise $12,000 with a bunch of donor perks: a muffin bearing your name, private cooking lessons, etc. Sweet Bar won't open until this summer, but Niall may host some pre-opening pop-ups to build the hype.

What Meat-Eaters Need to Know

It was standing room only last week at Revival Bar and Kitchen in Berkeley when four of the Bay's most prominent butchery experts got together for some meaty discourse. The free event came with tasty meat snacks and a big, chunky title: What Meat Eaters Need to Know: Guidance On Making Good Food Choices From Experts In Carnivory. Said experts included Ryan Farr of 4505 Meats, Marissa Guggiana of The Butcher's Guild, Morgan Maki of Bi-Rite Market, and Peter Hertzmann, author of *Knife Skills Illustrated*.

In LA, Mani Niall ran an organic patisserie. JESSE HIRSCH

The discussion's main theme was raising consumer consciousness and the ways ethical meat purveyors can take on an instructor's role. For instance, Maki loves educating Bi-Rite shoppers on whole-animal butchery, schooling them on the strengths and preparations of less glamorous cuts.

However, even if you stick with off-brand animal parts (hearts and offal were repeatedly mentioned), Maki acknowledged that pasture-raised sustainable meat costs significantly more than its factory-farmed counterparts. Hertzmann, who teaches butchering skills to minimum-security prison inmates, at one point mentioned that his students "can't afford to shop at Bi-Rite."

One audience member (an employee of Berkeley's whole-animal butchery The Local Butcher Shop) said he has friends who still eat at McDonald's. He wanted to know how to convince them to purchase better meat. Guggiana's retort, "Make it delicious!" got a few chuckles. Maki then shared an anecdote about an eye-opening course he taught on how to butcher chicken and make it into soup. It was a nice story, but it involved students who had the intellectual curiosity (and means) to sign up for a butchery class. How do you reach people who doggedly eat fast-food meat?

I recently interviewed an NYU food studies professor who said that Americans who buy non-factory-farmed meat are still "so few as to be statistically insignificant." Last week's panelists were stoked about how savvy meat shoppers are becoming, but the Bay Area can be something of an echo chamber. It's one thing to make an impact on people who shop at Bi-Rite and who have seen *Food Inc.* It's something else entirely to reach consumers outside the food-forward bubble, and convince them to spend double for a pastured whole chicken.

The Revival Bar panel was sponsored by the Butcher's Guild, a national association of about sixty ethical meat purveyors, and there was some discussion on how to best marshal that group's resources. A thought: What if the guild sponsored some conversation-starting neighborhood barbecues (outside of Rockridge, Berkeley, or the Mission)? Guggiana's point is well taken — the best way to gain converts may be to "make it delicious." Fire up the grill! ●

Jesse.Hirsch@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Latin-y Restaurants

Bar Cesar

4290 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. This Piedmont branch of the acclaimed Gourmet Ghetto tapas bar localizes the mother ship's Spanish focus for an array of Nuevo Latino dishes, with middling results. Menu standouts include a moist, spicy pollo asado (baked chicken), creamy fried plantains, and several tasty tacos and empanadas. Get the pastel imposible (flan and chocolate cake) for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$

Bocanova

55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. Pan-Latin food and drink with upscale-organic California ingredients star at this handsome, industrial-chic Jack London Square venue. The all-à la carte menu features plates large and small ideal for sharing: rich, lusty sweet potato-chipotle gratin; tender scallops drizzled with a peppery ceviche; slender slices of silky rare albacore; a creamy-dreamy bread pudding jazzed with Mexican chocolate ice cream. Extensive pan-American wine list. Inventive house cocktails include a spicy, potent pisco punch. $$$

Cafe Valparaiso

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3861. Under its current owners, a husband-and-wife team from Valparaiso, the cafe at La Peña Cultural Center specializes in Chilean comfort food. Pre-show audiences can nosh on empanadas (savory turnovers), an addictive snack called *chorrillana* (french fries and chorizo), and glasses of Chilean red. More substantial entrées include a decent paella, stewed beef with rice and potatoes, and the ultimate main dish, *pastel de choclo*, a sort of baked tamale with sweet caramelized onions, beef, chicken and raisins. $$

Cocina Poblana

1320 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0497. In the heart of Emeryville's booming condotopia, Cocina Poblana tries to be a bit of everything: lunchtime taqueria for Quiznos-weary office-cube rats, smart dinner spot dispensing regional Mexican specialties, and weekend morning hangout for the neighborhood's new residents. The kitchen hasn't totally nailed its ambitious brief, though it does a good job overall. Long-cooked dishes are standouts. Mole Mama Elena, pulpy beef tinga, and carnitas Don Pedro approach downright luscious. $$

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe

719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400. Packed with hipsters and a diverse crowd that hails Oakland, Sunday brunch here is a party. No wonder: Blanca Arreloya's Victorian-storefront cafe serves up some of the city's brightest-tasting morning food — like ceviche Benedict, with its roasted pepper-coconut sauce and sparkly hash of shrimp, tilapia, and mango. Lemon ricotta pancakes are dense and custardy, while graham-cracker-crusted French toast is sponge-cake light. Stick with the a.m., though; the weekday lunch show is on the clunky side. $-$$

Cosecha Mexican Cafe

907 Washington St., Oakland, 510-452-5900. Call it Mexican farm-to-table: this rambling restaurant stall in Swan's Market, overseen by Dominica Rice, an alum of Chez Panisse and Eccolo who has cooked in Mexico City. The best dishes here seem to glow from the inside, thanks to a combination of careful ingredient sourcing and the kitchen's skill. Featuring tortillas made on-site, tacos filled with pork belly or achiote-flavored chicken are fantastic, and Cosecha's salads and salsas show off Rice's deftness with seasonal produce. Saturday brunch has everyday touches like house-made "Spam" embedded in the pancakes, while the fixed-price Saturday dinners allow Rice the chance to stretch out with slightly more complex dishes. $$

Doña Tomás

5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. Temescal's venerable *nouveau*-Mexican/California cuisine hotspot is as fun and festive as ever, especially on the inviting back patio, where the artisan margaritas taste especially delicious. The upscale menu offerings tend to lack the zest and deep-down satisfaction one associates with classic and casual Mexican cookery, but for the most part they're perfectly tasty nonetheless. Get the lime pie for dessert. Impressive tequila list. $$$

Fonda

1501 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006. This stylish restaurant, part of the Lalime's dynasty, serves small plates of rustic pan-Latin food. All is both novel to the uninitiated and superbly prepared, as are items such as the *tinga poblana* (pork, potato, and chipotle). These dishes are meant to soak up the booze, which includes tasty — and expensive — cocktails, hundreds of spirits, and North American, European and South American wines. $$-$$$

La Furia Chalaca

310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206. Classic dishes from Peru's mountains and coastline are authentically prepared and artistically presented at this Jack London Square destination. Causa (pureed potatoes filled with spicy chicken) makes an excellent starter; the house *ceviche* is bright, lush, and impeccably fresh; *seco de cabrito* (braised goat) is a rich, hearty, satisfying meal. Sipping options include a potent Pisco Sour, the refreshing *chicha morada* purple-corn punch, and an impressive Peru-centric wine list. Lovely array of pre-Columbian pottery. $$$

Habanas

15 B Park St., Alameda, 510-521-2150. Cuba's hearty, spicy Creole cookery — complemented here and there with a few up-market California accents — is prepared and served at this handsome Caribbean venue. While some of the dishes lack the panache of the genuine article, others are well worth ordering: silky, smoky black beans and rice, crisp and creamy fried plantains, thick, luscious cane-glazed pork chops with pineapple-rum chutney, a buttery flan touched with rum. Impressive *mojito* menu. $$

Otaez Restaurant

3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0909. Run by Chuy Campos and family, long-running Otaez — newly redecorated with colorful murals — offers a menu of classic dishes from enchiladas to goat-meat *birria* on the weekends. But it's the daily and seasonal specials that are worth tasting, such as *milanesa*, breaded fried steak, or *tortas de camarón*, fried shrimp-flour patties served with *nopales* (cactus) in a red chile broth. Start your meal off with shrimp soup, and end it with a bowl of *capirotada* bread pudding, chasing down everything with sweet mango *agua fresca*. $-$$

Platano

2142 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0345. The Salvadoran dishes here glow with accomplishment, from unusually delicate pupusas to casamiento, rice and black beans sautéed together until they're crispy and onion-fluffy-light. Irma Mishler's handsome, earth-toned dining room is a spinoff of Kaliente, her mom Maria's impeccable Salvadoran cafe in El Sobrante. Like Kaliente, Platano is a good place to get acquainted with the cuisine through friendly service and clean-tasting versions of El Salvador's rustic, homey cooking. $-$$

Plaza Garibaldi

2550 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-1654. Owner Sofia Manay traded up her Richmond taco stand for a place where she could cook dishes from her native Peru. The massive list of Mexican combo plates is far from exciting, and not every Peruvian dish sparkles. But bright-tasting ceviche mixto is authentically homely, and an order of *anticuchos* (grilled sliced beef heart) is mandatory if only for its sauce, spiked with the peppery Peruvian herb *huacatay*. $-$$

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Babette
2621 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-684-3946. Babette is a near anomaly in its genre: a museum cafe that's not mediocre. Tucked inside the Berkeley Art Museum, this hip little spot is a marvel of chic-meets-homey, perfect for the gallery-weary savant who needs a place to nosh and revive. The food is a rotating menu of farm-to-table done well, a suitable complement for the institution that hosted Chez Panisse's fortieth-anniversary bash. The final irony of this winning museum cafe is that most of its customers wander in off the street, completely unaware that it's connected to BAM. $

Haven
44 Webster St., Oakland, 510-663-4440. The latest outpost of Daniel Patterson's burgeoning empire fails to match the hype, despite the star power of "it" chef Kim Alter (Ubuntu, Manresa). The Jack London Square post-warehouse design has some cool touches, and much of the menu is plated beautifully. Yet service often falters, many dishes are served with basic errors, and other items are overwrought and fussy. It's possible that Haven may streamline its service and menu issues, but at price points this high, no one wants to play the guinea pig. $$$

Amba Falafel
6464 Moraga Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8[illegible]. This Montclair falafel house has a strange duality. On one hand, it's a fully kosher, Sabbath-observant restaurant that serves as a community hub for Bay Area Orthodox Jews. On the other, it's part of Jonathan Wornick's ambitious plans to create the nation's first Israeli street-food chain. The falafel and hummus are fresh and tasty, and the sabich fried eggplant sandwich is a sure winner. But unless you're strictly kosher, skip the pizza — American fast-food items were added to the menu primarily to appease the strictly observant. $

Kiraku
2566 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible]758. Izakayas, the Japanese restaurants serving snacks items to munch on while you down beer and sake, have been in full bloom for a while in San Francisco. But in the East Bay, Kiraku's owners Daiki and Sanae Saito feel like pioneers of the form. That's not to say they're izakaya purists — they add European, Chinese, and Korean flair to their stable of bar nibbles. This tiny spot has become a late-night favorite for off-work local chefs, hungry for diverse and compelling items like New Zealand deer sashimi, foie gras daikon, and sweet tea blancmange. But take caution: As with tapas, Kiraku's small plates can quickly add up to a big bill. $$

Pikanha's
2[illegible]5 W. Richmond Ave., Richmond, 510-237-7585. You'll need to gear up for a full night at Pikanha's, the East Bay's only continuous-service Brazilian churrascaria. For an outrageously affordable fixed price, a fleet of revolving waiters carves you up nearly a dozen grilled meats at a breakneck pace. A few tips: Skip the hot buffet, drink plenty of water, and eat a little salad with your carne. The meat comes from predictably murky sources, and there's little consistency from cut to cut, but at these prices you should expect more of an adventure than a gourmet meal. $$

Red Buffalo
2935 Market St., Oakland, 510-832-8826. Deep in West Oakland's Ghost Town neighborhood sits that mysteriously excellent takeout spot, a mix of bulletproof glass and old-the sy kitsch decor. The wings are moist, tender, and full of meaty flavor, not to mention large for a standard broiler hen. The sizzling hot wing, made with a combo of Pappy's fire sauce and fresh jalapeños, bowls you over with its intensity. The smoky chipotle wing is also a scorcher, with a bit less vinegar in the sauce. Both hot wings have pepper pieces embedded in the skin, a nod to thoughtful preparation. The menu also includes a range of Philly cheesesteaks and a deep-fried Twinkie with chocolate and strawberry dipping sauce. $

Plum
2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. Star chef Daniel Patterson's more casual, scaled-down neighborhood version of San Francisco's Coi serves up farm-fresh ingredients in unusual California fusion combinations: deviled eggs with caperberry-tarragon relish, oyster stew with parsley root and wheatgrass, braised cauliflower with dandelion salsa verde. The execution doesn't always live up to the high concept, but the beef cheek/oxtail burger is sensational, the artichoke/chervil terrine is lush and delectable, and the white chocolate parfait with huckleberries is a dream. Strikingly dark, sleek setting, impressive wine list. $$$

Rumba al Sur
43[illegible] Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-479-[illegible]208. Rumba al Sur is the long-anticipated pan-Latin experiment from Chef Matt Colgan of À Côté. But after eleven years working in Mediterranean tapas, Colgan's foray in new ethnic cuisine has mixed results. He is light on the spice, trying to appeal to a broad range of palates. Much of the resulting fare tastes bland, though top-shelf dishes like the chiles rellenos and pozole verde hint at Colgan's potential. For sleepy Glenview, Rumba al Sur is a needed shot of adrenaline. Locals pack the spot even on early weeknights, lending it a lively club-like vibe. $$

Tacubaya
1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160. Owned by the same folks who made Doña Tomás a success, Tacubaya brings the authentic taqueria experience to yuppieville Fourth Street. Well, not quite authentic — there's no grease on the tables, and the plates are too pretty (and pricey). The chef's subtlety is lost on the tacos and tortas, which could pack more heat. But as dishes such as pumpkin tamales with *mole rojo*, a piquant *coctel de calamares* and featherlight *chile relleno* demonstrate, the more showy Tacubaya's food gets, the better it is. $-$$

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana
468 8th St., Oakland, 510-444-1944. An old-school restaurant specializing in antojitos, those little whims that all Mexico noshes on throughout the day. Chef Gloria Dominguez has traveled around the country gathering regional specialties and treating them like alta cocina. Her antojitos, sopes, mulitas and even flan are delicate and soulful, reverent of tradition but internationally chic. So is the room, all exposed brick and windows. $$$

Tequería La Bamba
12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-23[illegible]-[illegible]888. Taqueria La Bamba dishes up the real thing: homestyle Salvadoran food and respectable Mexican antojitos. Salt can be a problem with the Mexican-style meats. Come here for *pupusas*, Salvadoran tamales, creamy refried beans, and heartbreakingly good tortillas, patted out and grilled to order. $

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

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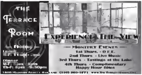

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LAST CALL

PEARL'S IN THE ROUGH

Four months after a flood threatened to shut Miss Pearl's down for good, the bar is back and better than ever.

By Ellen Cushing

Ellen Cushing

It's a pretty safe guess that October 22 was one of the worst days Mark Everton has had in a while. In the early hours of that morning, a produce delivery truck knocked into and broke a fire hydrant outside Miss Pearl's Jam House, the restaurant and bar at which he's the general manager. Water spewed out from the open pipe forty feet up and onto the restaurant's second-floor balcony, where it blew through the sliding glass doors and seeped into the dining room. By the time Everton arrived at the scene, there was about eight inches of water filling the massive, multi-room space; by the end of the day, the ceiling, walls, lighting, and air-conditioning systems were totally ruined. It would've been the worst thing to happen to a restaurant, except it wasn't. As Everton explained last week, nearly five months after the flood and one month after Miss Pearl's reopened, "it's not often in this business that you get the chance to press the reset button."

He's got a point, and it's clear that Miss Pearl's, the home restaurant and bar of Jack London Square's Waterfront Hotel, took the opportunity seriously. That meant completely revamping the menu, design, look, and feel of the place, taking the theme several hundred miles north from Caribbean to American Southern. This, guys, was a very, very good decision. A slightly cheeseball, highly seashell-oriented, and thoroughly overwhelming decorating scheme has now been substituted with large-format photographs of jazz greats and artfully placed Mardi Gras beads; "jerk" menu modifiers now replaced with "fried and smothered"; the "Jam House" suffix in the restaurant's name (which was short for "Jamaican") dropped in favor of the sleeker-sounding "restaurant and lounge"; expensive-looking light fixtures subbed in for slightly-less-expensive-looking light fixtures; and so on. After a renovation that cost all together upwards of a million dollars, the bar re-opened on, of course, Fat Tuesday, and Everton estimates that he saw four hundred customers that night.

Miss Pearl's
1 Broadway, Oakland
510-444-7171
MissPearlsOakland.com
Open Sunday-Thursday until 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m.

In terms of the cocktail program, this revitalization or reorientation or whatever you want to call it has mostly meant that Miss Pearl's large menu of rum-and-fruit-based drinks — daiquiris, mai tais, and the like — have been removed, a respectable collection of bourbon and New Orleans-style cocktails put down in their place. On the left side of the menu, a slate of "inspired cocktails" include local, seasonal inventions like the Doneland ("Hanger One Buddha's Hand Vodka, Combier, aged Earl Grey, Bittermens hopped grapefruit bitters," $9) and the adorably named Scrapple from the Apple ("Four Roses small batch Bourbon, Averna amaro, spiced apple shrub, toasted pecan syrup," also $9); on the right, the "Inherited" drinks include mostly-faithful renditions of juleps, Sazeracs, gin fizzes, and the like. Also, and worth major points: They have Abita on tap, a decent menu of tasting flights, surpassing happy-hour deals, lovely, helpful bartenders (shout out to Garry); and, for $7, a bar snack that's basically just bacon smothered in salted chocolate sauce and that might very well make you see God.

I ordered a Hurricane. Having just been to New Orleans a couple months ago, I can say from sad experience that this is a drink that can quite easily and all too often be corrupted by the food coloring- and corn syrup-happy bartenders of Bourbon Street, but not here. Miss Pearl's hurricane ($8), made from house-infused rum, passion fruit juice, grenadine, and not much else, served appreciably huge and naturally coral-colored with a thick orange shaving on top, was a revelation — fruity, for sure, but in a decidedly not-too-sweet, not-from-concentrate way, and gloriously strong in that accidentally-drunk-at-5-p.m. kind of way. The mint julep (Rip Van Winkle ten-year bourbon, sugar, and mint, $8) was similarly ingredient-minimal, well-made, and strong, a largely un-messed-with but ever-so-slightly better take on the classic.

Actually, much the same could be said about Miss Pearl's in general. Expensive makeover aside, the place is by and large what it was before the flood, just slightly better: It's still upscale, older-skewing, and undeniably hotel-y, with its pastel palette, upholstered chairs, and big windows. But also with the hurricanes, and the happy hour, and the helpful bartenders, and an unaccountably adorable outdoor seating area, and the aforementioned big bay views: one of the East Bay's best-kept secrets for delicious drinks in a quiet, lovely setting. Sometimes a setback can be more like a silver lining. ●

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Bulkmeats Meat Co.'s Monthly "Meat Up" The soon-to-be-launched modern day butcher shop hosts a meal of beef chile verde braised with pickled vegetables and bacon onion, served with warm handmade corn tortillas. Beer and coffee also available. Thu., Mar. 15, 12-2:30 p.m. Blue Bottle Coffee, 300 Webster St., Oakland. 510-653-4343. BlueBottleCoffee.net.

Berkeley Wine Farmers The Farmers Winery's Jake Johnson showcases her boutique wines, while Chef Almeida presents a meal made from ingredients sourced from Johnson's property. Wed., Mar. 21, 6:30 p.m. $130. Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-843-3000. ClaremontResort.com.

Bite Dept. Fruit: June 101 Beet Chair Fruit Inspector Rumel Alameda Market fruit-preserving techniques. RSVP. Oakland. Sun., Mar. 18, 10 a.m.-noon. $80-105. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley, with Oakland: Making and Using Oakland Pasta Appetizer to Oakland Learn how to make fresh pasta. Fri., Mar. 16, 6:30 p.m. CookingWithPassion.com. Pasta & Company, 1[illegible] 62nd St. # B, Emeryville. 510-594-1938.

Donkey & Goat New Releases Again With tastings of the winemakers on spring wines, including Coupe d'Or and Five Thirteen. Fri., Mar. 16, 2-6 p.m. A Donkey and Goat Winery, 1340 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-868-9174. ADonkeyAndGoat.com.

Fermentation 101: Kimchi, Pickling, and Miso Licensed acupuncturist Mahango Ellis leads a workshop for beginning to established fermenters, covering basic salt fermentation and fermenting with a culture. Bring a knife and cutting board. Sat., Mar. 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m. $35. 510-665-5500. BerkeleyBusiness.com. Stately Art Lab, 1697 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-1145. StatelyArtLab.com.

Festival of Flavors: Extra Virgin Olive Oil With tastings, pairings, cooking demos, and a panel discussion featuring gold medal winners from the California Olive Oil Council's annual competition. Sat., Mar. 17, 1-4 p.m. Free. The Pasta Shop, 1786 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-250-6004.

Intro to Market Workshop Phat Beets Produce hosts a workshop series in the market's [illegible], free, with weekly [illegible] in [illegible]. The homemade food preservation. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. North Oakland Farmers' Market, Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

Restoration Liberation Day Celebrate all day with German brews. Sat., Mar. 17. Free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. Beer-Revolution.com.

Goat Dinner With a five-course goat dinner, starting with a [illegible] hour showcasing a specialty drink from Ravkoff's, the McCormick Ranch's Jeannie McCormack, representatives of the Butcher's Guild, and guiding chef Todd McConnell share [illegible]. Wed., Mar. 21, 6:30-9 p.m., $90; additional $15 for per-course wine pairing. Revival Bar & Kitchen, 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-9950. RevivalBarAndKitchen.com.

Late Night Little Bites With Bocanova's "little bites," including yuca-and-cheese fritters and fried plantains and Market [illegible] at happy-hour prices, along with specially-priced cocktails, wine, and beer. Thursdays-Saturdays, 9-10:30 p.m. Bocanova, 55 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Meat 101: The Whole the Ways and the Best to Buy Representatives from The Local Market Shop: Moon Sun Farms, Pastoral Plate, Highland Hills Farm, and the Bay Area Meat CSA discuss livestock raising, processing practices, and other meaty topics. Wed., Mar. 21, 7-9 p.m. $5. https://UrbanPopupTickets.com/event/233490. Arbor Cafe, 4200 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Meet the Market With 21st Amendment Brewery. Wed., Mar. 21, 6 p.m. Free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. Beer-Revolution.com.

Oakland Feast: A Sustainable Restaurant Tour of Oakland Four meat chefs, and taste food from three sustainable restaurants: Gather, Five, and Revival Bar + Kitchen. Tue., Mar. 20, 6-9 p.m. $80. BayAreaGreenTours.org. Gather, 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley. 510-809-0400. GatherRestaurant.com.

Off the Grid A weekly food truck gathering on Shattuck Avenue at Rose Street, Berkeley. Wednesdays, 5-9 p.m.

Organic Berkeley Demonstration Oakland College and the Ecology Center Market demonstrations using local organic produce and share free samples and nutrition/cooking tips. Part of Bauman College's Nutrition Skills Initiative. Third Tuesday of every month. Free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Pop-up Fridays Two tamale servings a non-tamale, non-traditional Market: Roam Berkeley's a rotating selection of Dylan's Sausages. Plus local food and wine at participating storefronts. Fridays, 12-8 p.m. Continues through May 25. Swan's Marketplace, 538 9th St., Oakland. SwansWay.com.

"Tagine" Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Arlington food prepared by chef Zouhair Kasara. Every other Thursday, 6:30-11 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Vinegar Making Workshop Learn the ancient Maya Aztec craft of making vinegars from fresh tropical fruits like Alameda pineapples, and California seasonal fruits that were [illegible]. Sat., Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 510-685-3968. PhatBeetsProduce.org. North Oakland Farmers' Market, Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Stand: Oakland Community Farmers Season Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-548-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Organic Market for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-528-1463. BAHIAinc.com.

BYA Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Stand Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-845-9066. BYAOnline.org.

Oakland Dist. Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Stand Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5550. [illegible] CA US.

Oakland Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-535-6170. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-8000. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org/farmers.html. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Broadway St., Oakland.

Laurel Village Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 510-482-1300. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market. Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Arlington Medical Center Oakland Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. North Oakland Farmers' Market, Arlington Medical Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

Phat Beets at Children's Hospital Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-258-7357. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-7000. CI.Berkeley.CA.US/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700.

Temescal Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

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PICK

Vegetarian Indian Cooking Class

Learn to prepare a meatless subcontinental feast at Kitchen on Fire (1509 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 15. Mumbai-born personal chef and caterer Irfan Dama — star of the YouTube cooking channel "Cooking With Chef Dama" — teaches a hands-on vegetarian Indian cooking class. Dishes featured in the class include *sambhi kadhi* (vegetable stew), *paneer bhurjee* (spicy cheese scramble), *channa masala* (turmeric chickpeas), *batata bhaji* (potatoes with ginger), and *puris* (crisp flatbread). 6:30 p.m., $70. KitchenOnFire.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

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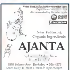

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MOVIES

DADS AND GRADS

Robert De Niro, Paul Dano, and Channing Tatum go to the head of the class in *Being Flynn* and *21 Jump Street*.

By Kelly Vance

Robert De Niro and Paul Dano are the glue in *Everybody's Fine*

At this point in his fabled career, Robert De Niro isn't exactly in need of a comeback. He could easily keep taking paychecks for stuff like *New Year's Eve* or *Killer Elite* and keep his legacy secure. But it's heartening to see him tackle a demanding part once in a while, something in which the quicksilver actor of *Raging Bull* and *Taxi Driver* can stretch out and flex his chops, something a bit risky, a little dangerous, even a bit frightening. Something like the role of Jonathan Flynn in Paul Weitz' radiant *Being Flynn*.

Jonathan is one of those urban types we can see warming his bones on the heating grating outside an office tower on a late-winter afternoon as all the cubicle workers are heading home, muttering poetry and urgent headlines to himself, avoiding eye contact, chanting the song of forgetfulness. When we meet Jonathan he's driving a hack — shades of Travis Bickle — but we already understand in the first few minutes that he's just passing through on his way to the bottom. Jonathan is homeless the way a clam is stewed or a worn-out truck tire is left shredded on the freeway. He didn't necessarily have to end up like this, except that in a way it fulfills his destiny.

We wouldn't notice Jonathan at all if it weren't for his son, Nick Flynn (Paul Dano), who introduces his dad while explaining himself to us in voiceover flashbacks. The two men have a steely but meandering relationship. After his disturbed mother (Julianne Moore, fleetingly) commits suicide and his father goes to prison for forging checks, young Nick is determined to shed his birthright and walk the straight and narrow. Years go by without family contact. Things didn't work out. Nick ends up broke in a Boston homeless shelter, the Harbor Street Inn, as a staffer, not an inmate. It is there that Nick reunites with his father, a delusional vodka-swilling street scuffler who gets combative when confronted by anything, even his own son.

There's an acting duel. Dano stands toe-to-toe quite well with De Niro trading blows, cool where the older man is hot, open and unguarded where the father is vengeful. Nick shares a squat in a vacated mafia strip club with a couple of Ghostbusters-style roomies, but otherwise there's very little standard brand cuteness about him and his situation, not even from Wes Studi, cast here against type as a nice-guy caregiver. Nick has his eye on a shelter colleague named Denise (Olivia Thirlby) who likes him even though he smokes crack he gets from his roommate. We're glad the producers decided on Thirlby despite the fact that she's too glamorous for the setting. She brings another chord to the same dismal yet intimate key. Twenty years ago Denise would have been played by Lili Taylor, who here settles for a smaller role at the homeless shelter.

Being Flynn
Written and directed by Paul Weitz. With Robert De Niro and Paul Dano. Opens Friday.

21 Jump Street
Directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller. With Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Opens Friday.

Screenwriter-director Weitz, adapting the book by the real-life Nick Flynn, splurges on romantic hobo despair. Above all, mad, frustrated farce: Jonathan considers himself a great writer, just like the protagonist of *Joe Gould's Secret*. Otherwise metropolitan escapades filter past: *The Saint of Fort Washington*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, the Bukowski opus *Factotum* (Taylor again), and perhaps a sliver of *Dementia*. One thing's for certain: when you walk out of this movie you will notice homeless people more than you did before, no matter how burned out you are on the subject.

But it's De Niro and Dano who glue the project together. Jonathan is the bravest and strongest character De Niro has played since his role as an end-of-the-leash dad in *Everybody's Fine*. Very few actors can disappear into a part the way De Niro can — it's gratifying to know he hasn't lost his skill. Probably never will. And Dano, one of America's best portrayers of compromised young men, stays with him every step of the way. Never underestimate the dramatic power of father-son bonding. So what if Weitz had a hand in *About a Boy* and *Little Fockers*? With *Being Flynn*, the porch light is on and all is forgiven.

If you're planning to see *21 Jump Street* on the strength of Jonah Hill, you should first check out "Hitler Learns Albert Brooks Was Not Nominated for Best Supporting Actor Oscar," a truthful meme that says what needs to be said about Hill's performance in *Moneyball* and his screen persona in general. It will put you in the proper mood. If you're attracted to *21 Jump Street* because of Channing Tatum, however, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

The two actors, each at a crossroads in his respective career, have the task of rolling out yet another comic remake of a half-forgotten TV show, in this case the network series of the same name (1987-1991) about baby-faced undercover police — including young Johnny Depp — infiltrating high schools to catch crooks. And so klutzy rookie officers Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum), on probation for incompetence, get sent to tough-guy Capt. Dickson (Ice Cube, now mostly a cop after years of gangsta) and ordered to pose as brothers at the local high school, where there's a new psychedelic drug going around. Mission: find 'em and bust 'em. Of course, you can see the cops are going to break every law ever written governing contact between adults and teenagers.

The Hill character was a pathetic nerd and Tatum was a haughty but dumb jock way back in 2005 when they went to the same high school. The joke in 2012 is that after they fumble their new-student identities, "Doug" (Hill) gets assigned to the Mickey Mouse courses, like dramatics, and "Brad" (Tatum) gets advanced chemistry. In the seven years they've been out of high school all the kids have become PC, and so the one-time nerd is now the cool guy and the former jock gets to hang out with the science geeks. Hill does exactly the same shtick he did in *Superbad* — he really only makes sense as a harmless dork or a psycho. But Tatum displays some nifty comic timing and steals the movie. What a prize. Most of the speaking parts are handled by the usual twentysomething actors playing juves — Hill is 28, Tatum pushing 32. But Tatum shows some range. Hill loses ground. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Jen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

21 Jump Street Just beneath the veneer of [illegible] and dope jokes in this joyously lowbrow rehab of the late-Eighties/early-Nineties TV [illegible] about young undercover cops in a high school, there's a tale of two actors and their careers. One thread involves Jonah Hill, [illegible] character from *Superbad* and *Moneyball* trying to expand his range. The other is about Channing Tatum, the jock-hunk from *The Vow* and *The Eagle*, who's learning to [illegible] the comedy [illegible]. [illegible] fantasy-land where cops get blowjobs during car chases and [illegible] detective. Biggest revelation: [illegible] since 2005 — they're all PC now. Directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller, the team who gave us *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, [illegible] co-produced with Tatum, [illegible] Michael Bacall, adapted from the old [illegible] TV show. (110 min.) (K.V.)

Being Flynn Nick, a struggling young writer working at a homeless shelter (Paul Dano), runs into a problem [illegible] his estranged father (Robert De Niro), a delusionary, alcoholic street person. The ensuing soul-searching, [illegible], provides a genuine [illegible], with De Niro tackling into the meatiest character he's had since *Everybody's Fine*, and Dano continuing his ascension as one of the more intense young actors in Hollywood. The story is adapted by writer-director Paul Weitz (*About a Boy*, *Little Fockers*) from author Nick Flynn's memoir, and [illegible] Olivia Thirlby (too glamorous as a shelter aide), Julianne Moore (Nick's mother), and [illegible] Wes Studi, [illegible] against type as a nice guy. But it's Dano and De Niro who provide the fireworks. (102 min.) (K.V.)

Boy In the [illegible] light-touch kids' drama from New Zealand, an eleven-year-old island boy (James Rolleston) [illegible] 1984 manages to come of age despite the defection of his father, [illegible] a newly released prisoner who never quite grew up. That's writer-director Taika Waititi as the [illegible] dad, but the movie really belongs to Rolleston's Boy and his young mates, [illegible] inspired by Waititi's 2004 Oscar-nominated short, *Two Cars, One Night*. (88 min.) (K.V.)

Casa de Mi Padre Will Ferrell and his longtime producer Adam McKay (*Anchorman*, *Talladega Nights*) go south of the border for this mock spaghetti western, which is spoken in Spanish and subtitled. The movie [illegible] Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal [illegible] (84 min.) (J.J.)

Delicacy After the sudden death of her beloved [illegible] detective (Audrey Tautou) [illegible] everyone [illegible] in love with the [illegible] (François Damiens), a lower-level employee with [illegible] deceptively profound character study by novel[illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com or by scanning the code below ist/filmmaker David Foenkinos, adapting his own book with his sibling Stéphane, an erstwhile [illegible] (Sibling in Paris). When Tautou (Amélie, Coco Before Chanel) flashes her big brown eyes and purses her mouth, everything falls into place. Costarring Bruno Todeschini. (108 min.) (K.V.)

Jeff, Who Lives at Home [illegible] comedy starring Jason Segel as a ne'er-do-well, future-to-[illegible] slacker type who gets a sense of how the other/ employed half lives when he accompanies his [illegible] (played by Ed Helms of the Hangover franchise) on a trip to track down his wanderous wife. Written and directed by Jay and Mark Duplass (of Baghead and Cyrus). Also starring Susan Sarandon & Judy Greer. (83 min.)

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen An oil sheikh (Amr Waked) with an [illegible] — he owns a castle in Scotland — attempts a dubious scheme to import live Scottish salmon from the UK to drought-dry Yemen, with the help of an investment consultant (Emily Blunt) and a British government fish expert (Ewan McGregor, actually playing a Scot — a rarity for him). The best thing about director Lasse Hallström's overly [illegible] romantic comedy is the chemistry between Blunt and McGregor, and the best thing about that chemistry is writer Simon (Slumdog Millionaire) Beaufoy's perky dialogue. Kristin Scott Thomas also [illegible] good [illegible]. Don't throw it back. (112 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

A Separation [illegible] develops [illegible] household caregiver named Razieh (Sareh Bayat) arrives at the home of a Tehran family with enough [illegible] to help [illegible] husband and father Nader (Peyman Moadi) take care of the grandfather, an Alzheimer's patient. Turns out both the patient and the employee have [illegible] issues with their families, problems that require adjudication by the civil/religious authorities. And so writer-director Asghar Farhadi sets up a meandering, nerve-wracking, ultimately worthwhile [illegible] of contemporary Iranian urban life, very much in the style of early digital [illegible] in which every single [illegible] of conflict [illegible] with a determined [illegible]. Brilliantly [illegible] but may lead to [illegible]. (123 min.) (K.V.)

Albert Nobbs Glenn Close — in a reprising of her 1982 stage role as a woman [illegible] as a man [illegible] in Dublin [illegible] slowly by degrees. The character of [illegible] Mr. Nobbs [illegible] his/her way into our sympathy as a lonely [illegible] person with finally sees a way to [illegible] happiness when [illegible] fellow [illegible] into the picture: a [illegible] house painter named Hubert Page (Janet McTeer). Both elements are excellent in a completely [illegible] way, and director Rodrigo García [illegible] fight on [illegible], with apt character roles for Brendan Gleeson, Mia Wasikowska, Pauline Collins, Brenda Fricker, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and Aaron Johnson. Close herself collaborated on the screenplay, adapted with John Banville and Gabriella Prekop from an original short story by Irish author George Moore. [illegible] character [illegible]. (113 min.) (K.V.)

The Artist [illegible]. The French team of [illegible] Jean Dujardin and writer-director Michel Hazanavicius (the OSS 117 spy spoof series) take a [illegible] back to 1920s Hollywood for the story of a silent-movie star (Dujardin) whose career fades with the coming of [illegible]. Meanwhile his girlfriend (pretty Bérénice Bejo) [illegible] becomes a star [illegible]. The gimmick is that [illegible] all of them, including supporting players John Goodman and James Cromwell, [illegible] until the [illegible] final scene. [illegible] just as well, since Dujardin apparently doesn't speak English. [illegible] Sunset Boulevard, A Star Is Born, and Singin' in the Rain, there's nothing much original [illegible] except Dujardin's signature mugging. (100 min.) (K.V.)

The Descendants A major triumph for [illegible] director Alexander Payne and actor George Clooney, who plays a [illegible] Hawaiian businessman with big decisions to make after an accident [illegible] his wife in a coma. The emotional and [illegible] progress of "back-up parent" Matt King (Clooney) and his daughters is [illegible] with the humane, funny, ultimately touching portraits of [illegible] in Sideways, [illegible] and the rest of the Payne filmography. Like Preston Sturges, Payne is as infatuated with individual Americans as he is with the idea of being an American. [illegible] Hawaiian family background. Clooney turns in one of his finest performances, maybe his best to date, with terrific support by Shailene Woodley and Amara Miller as the young [illegible]. The [illegible] lovely traditional Hawaiian music is also perfect. Screenplay by Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash, adapted from a novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings. Fine support acting by Nick Krause, Beau Bridges, Matthew Lillard, and Judy Greer. Refreshing and invigorating [illegible]. (115 min.) (K.V.)

Dr. Seuss' the Lorax This agreeable 3D musical update of Ted "Dr. Seuss" Geisel's eco-fable about one kid's campaign to bring [illegible] to Thneedville delivers its message painlessly — [illegible] 21st century [illegible] of a [illegible] tycoon (voice of Rob Riggle) who sells bottled air to a pollution-plagued [illegible]. Danny DeVito as the voice of the Lorax, guardian of trees, with Ed Helms as Once-ler, Betty White as Grandma Norma, and Zac Efron as [illegible]. So what if the 3D is perfunctory? The writing is terrific. Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul wrote the screenplay adapted from Dr. Seuss' 1971 children's [illegible]. (94 min.) (K.V.)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Friends With Kids A funny thing happens with this seemingly lightweight TV-sitcom-style ensemble [illegible] about three thirtyish New York City couples: it [illegible] before our eyes into something deeper and more satisfying than a standard [illegible]. That's [illegible] writer-director Jennifer Westfeldt (Kissing Jessica Stein). In the role of a [illegible] named Julie, who arranges to have a baby with her friend Jason (Adam Scott, from Parks and Recreation) [illegible] married, and [illegible] child-rearing duties. We can see the denouement coming, but along the way Westfeldt, Scott, Jon Hamm, Kristen Wiig, Chris O'Dowd, Maya Rudolph, and Edward Burns are given plenty of room to [illegible] plus [illegible] dialogue. The strategy pays off. (100 min.) (K.V.)

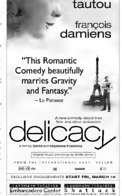
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance In a sequel to the 2007 hit, Nicolas Cage reprises his role as the stunt [illegible] who [illegible] in order to stop the devil from taking a human form and wreaking havoc. Directed by Neveldine/Taylor, written by Scott Gimple, Seth Hoffman, and David S. Goyer and based on the Marvel Comics series. Also starring Ciarán Hinds. (95 min.)

Gone Thriller [illegible] a kidnapping survivor [illegible] sister goes missing. Directed by Heitor Dhalia, written by Allison Burnett, starring Amanda Seyfried, Jennifer Carpenter, and Wes Bentley. (94 min.)

In Darkness [illegible] Holocaust film [illegible] several families of determined yet frightened Polish Jews into the sewers in Lvov, where they hide for more than a year during WWII, evading the German Nazi death camps. The [illegible] in this [illegible] tale — based on a true story — is the character of Leopold Socha ([illegible] Robert Wieckiewicz), a [illegible] Catholic sewer worker who at first takes advantage of the [illegible], then gradually transforms himself into a Righteous Gentile. [illegible] Schindler's List may or may not be [illegible]. [illegible] Polish-French [illegible] Agnieszka Holland [illegible] an adaptation of Robert Marshall's book by [illegible] writer David F. Shamoon [illegible] honestly. Not enough [illegible]. (145 min.) (K.V.)

The Iron Lady [illegible] just what we were aching to see (not): a [illegible] portrait of [illegible] former U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. It's the kind of job that [illegible] for Meryl Streep in her [illegible] character [illegible], and the actress hasn't disappoint even if the project does. Thatcher is shown in the early stages of senile dementia, hallucinating her deceased husband (Jim Broadbent), with her achievements in flashback [illegible] from shopkeeper's daughter to Tory political [illegible] breaking unions, [illegible] people on the dole, etc. At least they left off her [illegible] Ronald Reagan and Henry Kissinger. Long before [illegible] wondering why director Phyllida Lloyd (Mamma Mia!) and screenwriter Abi Morgan (Shame, [illegible]) decided to make such [illegible] in the first place — other than to give Streep another [illegible]. Costarring Richard E. Grant. (105 min.) (K.V.)

John Carter The [illegible] character, a gold-hunting desperado in the Old West (Taylor Kitsch), gets [illegible] magically transported to the planet Barsoom (aka Mars), where he [illegible]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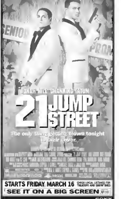
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warring tribes, a faithful dog-reptile, and a sexy warrior princess named Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins). With the emphasis on the princess. The effect is strangely pleasing. That's partly because [illegible] contraptions the Martians use — the story originated as part of a series of fantasy novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs, circa 1912-1943 — but mostly because of director Andrew Stanton's skill at making the [illegible] sci-fi [illegible], e.g. WALL-E and *Finding Nemo*. Try not to flinch at the unfortunate resemblance of the skinny, green, tusk-faced Tharks to Jar Jar Binks. Stanton, Mark Andrews, and Michael Chabon wrote the screenplay, adapted from Burroughs' *A Princess of Mars*. (132 min.) (K.V.)

My Week With Marilyn Massive insecurity meets [illegible] ego in this behind-the-scenes dramatization of Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams) being directed by Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) in the movie *The Prince and the Showgirl*, circa 1956 — as seen through the eyes of a starstruck young assistant director named Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne). Williams is genuinely good as vulnerable Marilyn and Branagh is fine, as the imperious Olivier, although they work together better if we can suspend our disbelief. Branagh is too chubby and unglamorous to play Olivier despite his perfect vocal impersonation. Adrian Hodges' screenplay, based on Clark's tell-all memoir, seems scrapped from the same pattern as *Me and Orson Welles*. In the large supporting cast are Julia Ormond as Vivien Leigh (really!), Zoë Wanamaker as Marilyn's acting coach, and Dougray Scott as MM's playwright husband, Arthur "She's devouring me" Miller. Directed dutifully by Simon Curtis. Typical Oscar-season [illegible]. (99 min.) (K.V.)

Pariah The life and times of a bright but naturally tentative African-American middle-class teenage lesbian from Brooklyn, New York, and her efforts to come out into a tough, tough world. Kudos to actress Adepero Oduye and writer-director Dee Rees for making the young protagonist Alike's rite of passage as challenging and then so rewarding, with terrific, naturalistic performances by Pernell Walker, Aasha Davis, Charles Parnell, and Kim Wayans (as Alike's shocked, churchgoing mother). But it's Ms. Oduye who carries the film across the finish line. Filmmaker Rees' first feature is a true visible marvel of characterization and place. (86 min.) (K.V.)

Pina 3D Even for non-fans of dance, this 3D [illegible] performance documentary profile of choreographer Pina Bausch and her Tanztheater Wuppertal ensemble presents a spectacular show of movement and stagecraft. Writer-director Wim Wenders (*Buena Vista Social Club*, *Wings of Desire*) is clearly thrilled to capture the imaginative Bausch's startling set pieces in *The Rite of Spring* and *Café Müller*, [illegible] Bausch's marvelous structures strewn [illegible] a bit too heavily. It's all done with a wry Teutonic sense of humor (that's not an oxymoron). The scenes in downtown Wuppertal and the nearby forest are wonderful, as is the music in general, from needle drops to the original score by Thom Hanreich. Recommended. (106 min.) (K.V.)

Project X Documentary-style comedy-thriller about a group of high school friends who throw a party — which, of course, quickly goes out of control. Directed by Nima Nourizadeh, written by Michael Bacall and Matt Drake, and starring Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper, and Jonathan Daniel Brown. (88 min.)

The Secret World of Arrietty A lonely, sickly teenage boy named Shawn discovers Arrietty, a tiny teenage girl, in his encounters in a country

PICK

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

An oil sheikh (Amr Waked) with an inordinate fondness for fly fishing — he owns a castle in Scotland — hatches a dubious scheme to import ten thousand salmon from the UK to bone-dry Yemen, with the help of an unwed investment consultant (Emily Blunt) and a British government fish expert (Ewan McGregor, actually playing a Scot, a rarity for him). The best thing about director Lasse Hallström's overly sweet, arguably witty romantic comedy is the chemistry between Blunt and McGregor, and the best thing about that chemistry is writer Simon (*Slumdog Millionaire*) Beaufoy's gabby dialogue. Kristin Scott Thomas also makes good use of her time as a snappy bureaucrat. Don't throw it back. (111 min.) — *Kelly Vance*

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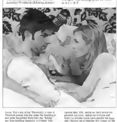
SHATTUCK – AFTER THE 2:55 SHOW SATURDAY MARCH 17
BRIDGE – AFTER THE FOLLOWING SHOWS: FRI 8:20, SAT & SUN 2:45 & 8:20

PICK

Friends With Kids

A funny thing happens with the seemingly [illegible] tonight TV-sitcom style ensemble piece about three thirtyish New York City couples: It grows before our eyes into something deeper and more satisfying than a standard chick flick. That's a tribute to actress-writer-director Jennifer Westfeldt (*Kissing Jessica Stein*), in the role of a yuppie named Julie, who arranges to have a baby with her friend Jason (Adam Scott from *Parks and Recreation* and *Our Idiot Brother*) without getting married, and to split child-rearing duties. We can see the denouement coming, but along the way Westfeldt, Scott, Jon Hamm, Kristen Wiig, Chris O'Dowd, Maya Rudolph, and Edward Burns are given plenty of room in characterize, plus intelligent dialogue. The strategy pays off. (100 min.) — *KV*



house. She's one of the "Borrowers," a race of Thumbed people who live under the floorboards and pilfer household items from the "Beings" and their [illegible] from the start. Perhaps. This [illegible] yet [illegible] [illegible] version of Head from Japan's famed Studio Ghibli is [illegible] by Ghibli mastermind Hayao Miyazaki (*Spirited Away*) with Keiko Niwa, and co-directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi and Gary Rydstrom, who [illegible] the Welcome [illegible] (there's a separate UK version). It's probably the quietest, calmest, and [illegible] tale in the Ghibli catalog, despite the welcome [illegible] of Carol Burnett as Hara, the [illegible] [illegible]. As such, young children used to hyperactive mainstream entertainment may wander off. The [illegible] is to slow down, Asian, and children. What a novelty, starring the [illegible] of Bridgit Mendler (Arrietty) and [illegible] Hercule (Shawn). The [illegible] is adapted from Mary Norton's previously filmed novel *The Borrowers*, with the American version written by Karey Kirkpatrick. (94 min.) (KV)

Silent House An already [illegible] young woman (Elizabeth Olsen) is trapped inside an old dark [illegible] without electric power, and her predicament is shown in real time, in one continuous camera take. Ah, while we don't [illegible] the gimmick any more, and so we're stuck with writer/co-director Laura Lau's slender but [illegible] [illegible] set of [illegible] (based on the Uruguayan film *La Casa Muda*) and actress Olsen's hysterics, which get her to a hurry. Here's a three-word review: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] moments. [illegible]. Co-directed by Chris Kentis and costarring Adam Trese, Eric Sheffer Stevens, and Julia Taylor Ross. (88 min.) (KV)

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace 3D The [illegible] 1999 prequel to the [illegible] Star Wars series, redone in 3D. Written and directed by George Lucas; starring Jake Lloyd, Liam Neeson, Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor, and Samuel L. Jackson. (115 min.)

A Thousand Words Comedy-drama starring Eddie Murphy as a [illegible] [illegible] who's [illegible] into [illegible]. Directed by Brian Robbins, written by Steve Koren. Also starring Kerry Washington, Cliff Curtis, and Allison Janney. (91 min.)

Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie Ninety minutes of your life you'll never get back. Funny if that's The Hitanstein and Eric Wareheim, playing "Mamoalies," take over the operation of a [illegible] mall in hopes of making enough money to recoup the cost of their flop movie. Welcome to the Bottom-of-the-Barrel Club: fish tank in panels, pedophile, shit bath, a wolf, [illegible] [illegible] pigeon, etc. Including the [illegible] supporting cast are Will Ferrell, Robert Loggia, and Jeff Goldblum, and John C. Reilly does the heavy lifting as Taquito, the mall's [illegible]. Zombies would have been an improvement. (94 min.) (KV)

Tyler Perry's Good Deeds Comedy about a high-powered businessman (played by writer-director Perry) who falls for a [illegible] of his office's cleaning crew (Gabrielle Union). (111 min.)

The Vow Nicholas Sparks-penned tearjerker starring Rachel McAdams as an [illegible] and Channing Tatum as her husband. (104 min.)

Wanderlust Two [illegible] Manhattan couple (Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston) takes to the road to experiment with the way they and [illegible]. Directed by David Wain, written by Wain and Ken Marino. Also starring Malin Akerman. (98 min.)

We Need to Talk About Kevin Tilda Swinton, at her [illegible], which is to say at her [illegible], as Mrs. [illegible] wife and mother Eva Khatchadourian (Swinton) seems to [illegible] the way [illegible] her eighth-month life as the mother of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], played at various stages of his life by Jasper Newell and Ezra Miller. Her husband (John C. Reilly) [illegible] [illegible] her friends, no help whatsoever. The question becomes: Who is going to snap first? Swinton adherents, and there are those who will positively swoon at the sight of Eva's agony. The rest of us will harbor doubts about novelist-co-writer Lynne Ramsay, co-writer Rory Kinnear and Lionel Shriver, whose novel got adapted. But there's absolutely no doubt about Ms. Swinton and the [illegible]; she's a monument for the ages. (112 min.) (KV)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Chinatown (130 min., 1974). Alameda Theatre, 2:05, 4:55, 1:20)

The Fifth Element (126 min., 1997). Parkway (UA Berkeley, 7, 8:30)

Byeong-Kang-beol Morey Christmas Kohol (65 min., 2010). In Korean with English subtitles. San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 8:05)

There Once Was an Island (50 min., 2010). With director [illegible] in person. In English and [illegible] with English subtitles. Preceded by *[illegible]* (5 min., 2011). San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

(Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Travelling Light (100 min., 2012). [illegible] Theatre Live (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, 7:00)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

11 Flowers (110 min., 2011). In Mandarin and Shanghainese with English subtitles. San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 6:30)

The Thousand and the Liberty Thousand (48 min., 2011). In Japanese with English subtitles. Preceded by Isao Sawada's *After Laughter* (16 min., 2011). San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 7:00)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Give Up Tomorrow (95 min., 2011). With director Michael Collins and producer Marty Syjuco in person. In English, [illegible], and Spanish with English subtitles. San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 6:00)

In the Family (169 min., 2011). With director Patrick Wang in person. San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 8:30)

The Room (99 min., 2003). (Landmark Piedmont, Oakland, midnight)

True Grit (128 min., 1969). (BAL Theatre, San Leandro, 7:00)

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Billy Jack (114 min., 1971). Berkeley Underground Film Society (1150 Gilman St., Berkeley, 7:00)

Time Regained (162 min., 1999). With an introduction by Proust scholar Larry Bensky. The Library Lover: The Films of Raúl Ruiz (PFA, 8:00)

MONDAY, MARCH 19

The Atomic Submarine (72 min., 1959) and **Destination Inner Space** (83 min., 1966). Hosted by Will "the Thrill" Viharo. Forbidden Thrills (Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge, Alameda, 7:30)

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Red River (133 min., 1948). Howard Hawks: The Measure of Man (PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Distinguished Flying Cross (67 min., 2011). With director Travis Wilkerson in person. Preceded by *Fragments of Gaunitania* (25 min., 2011). Documentary voices (PFA, 7:00)

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WHO ELSE HAS TO PAY

ASCAP is also demanding music-licensing fees from farmers' markets and house venues

Kathleen Richards

A few weeks ago we reported on how some small local businesses are getting caught off guard by the copyright law that requires them to pay BMI and ASCAP (the organizations that collect music licensing fees on behalf of songwriters) — basically any business that features music, whether prerecorded or in a live setting. Well, it turns out that ASCAP is requiring farmers' markets and house venues to pay as well, which will mean fewer venues for local musicians. Yet it's questionable whether those fees are really supporting the musicians they intend to help.

Since 1988, the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association has booked live music at its numerous weekly farmers' markets around the Bay Area. But late last year, ASCAP told the Concord-based nonprofit that it owed tens of thousands of dollars for providing that entertainment and would have to pay a regular fee to continue doing so. "They're cracking down on farmers' markets across the nation," said Stefan Robinson, marketing and promotions manager for Pacific Coast. "They're going after everybody right now." Robinson said the association and ASCAP reached a settlement agreement — the terms of which he declined to disclose — but said the result will mean that about half of their 69 farmers' markets will no longer have live music, including the markets in Fremont, Irvington, all the Kaiser buildings, and the Saturday market in Livermore.

Apparently, this is a national trend. Last year, the nonprofit Farmers Market Coalition sent out a notice to its members about the crackdown of live music at farmers' markets across the country. "Last fall, we started hearing from our members about organizations like ASCAP applying pressure to some farmers' markets to pay licensing fees for the playing of music on site, regardless of it being an unpaid service to the community," wrote coalition Executive Director Stacy Miller in a newsletter. Whether or not the market organizers charge ticket prices or pay the musicians, "if such musicians play copyrighted music as part of a farmers market, that market or the hosting organization is legally obligated to pay a licensing fee, just as shopping malls, cafes, and other stores pay licensing fees in order to play recorded music over their loudspeakers, or host performing musicians. While farmers markets are altogether different creatures than shopping centers, the legal realities of copyright law cannot be avoided simply because our missions are lofty."

Farmers' markets may not seem significant as live music venues, but for some musicians, their absence as an outlet spells the loss of another much-needed revenue source — however small it may seem. "For me, personally, it's a total disaster, because the majority of my income as a musician was coming from those markets," wrote Paul Anderson, a musician who plays every week at farmers' markets around the Bay Area, in an email. "If you do the math ... we are talking hundreds and hundreds

Musicians may have a tougher time playing local farmers' markets.

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gigs cancelled for the year (and all the years to come); and tens of thousands of people who will walk into silent markets."

And, he worries, smaller markets will feel the ripple effect as they may also be targeted: "That's the reality we are entering into," wrote Anderson, "no public music performance in markets, because the markets can't afford the fees." As it was, Pacific Coast only paid the musicians a nominal travel stipend (about $25 per event, or four hours). It's the tips that provide the artists their main revenue.

According to US copyright law, any music played outside one's circle of friends and family is considered a "public performance," and requires permission from the copyright owners — including a CD you've bought or songs off your iPod. Likewise, a musician playing live might potentially play copyrighted music — either his or her own, or someone else's if they're playing a cover. That's the grounds upon which ASCAP is basing its requirement that farmers' markets pay music-licensing fees.

In the case of the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association, Robinson said that ASCAP is operating under the assumption that copyrighted music is being played, regardless of whether it is or not. "They are assuming that because they can't be at every market, it doesn't matter — they assume that that copyrighted music is going to be played. ... I feel this is mostly unfair, not only to us but the musicians themselves, because now a lot of them aren't going to show up at the markets."

ASCAP did not respond to this reporter's queries. But Ari Surdoval, BMI's director of corporate communications, explained the organization's stance in an email. "BMI does license some farmers markets if they are not already covered under a city or municipality's general license," he wrote. "If not, they generally get a shopping center license, which is about $165 per year — about 45 cents per day, an even lower minimum fee than our bar and restaurant license."

But the Farmers Market Coalition questions whether farmers' markets should even fall under the same licensing regulations as a venue that regularly hosts live music and charges a door fee. "We have found that the charity concert venue license, while not entirely applicable to farmers markets, may be an appropriate avenue for some situations in farmers markets, which are more closely aligned with community fairs than malls or bars," Miller stated. "This licensing structure can be applicable as long as any proceeds generated by such an event are contributed to a charity other than the licensee."

It's also possible for farmers' markets to avoid ASCAP and BMI fees altogether, according to the Farmers Market Coalition. It recommends that market organizers draft an agreement with its musicians to not play copyrighted music — either their own (if they're a member of ASCAP or BMI) or someone else's. "If none of the songs performed are within the respective BMI or ASCAP libraries of licensed works, then there is no issue," wrote Miller. "Simply playing music is not a copyright violation that can be enforced unless the work is protected, i.e. duly registered with the Copyright Office and assigned to ASCAP or BMI." BMI's Surdoval did not respond to whether such a clause would be sufficient to avoid paying royalty fees.

However, the Farmers Market Coalition noted that it's not enough to simply state that you won't have copyrighted music, as both BMI and ASCAP have "investigators who visit venues playing music (live or recorded) and identify music included in the works held by their employer." If those investigators confirm copyrighted music was played without the proper license, it can become the basis for legal action. As we've previously reported, BMI makes every effort to avoid taking cases to court, but when it does, it typically wins.

It's not just farmers' markets feeling the pinch. House venues are also finding themselves the target of BMI and ASCAP. Jimmy, who only wanted to go by his first name, runs a house venue in North Oakland. He usually books music that's under the radar: world, folk, vocal music, and jazz. But last November, he says ASCAP contacted him and told him he had to start paying a licensing fee of $222 a year. House venues haven't traditionally been in the purview of music licensing, but that appears to be changing: Jimmy says he knows of another local house venue operator that's also being targeted. While Jimmy acknowledges that the fee is relatively low, the amount would still place a burden on him. He says he's retired and lives on a fixed income.

What troubles him most, however, is that he doesn't see ASCAP and BMI as actually supporting the musicians they claim to be helping. He did an informal poll of the musicians he books, and found that while a small number of them were members of ASCAP, they were outraged that the organization was demanding he pay a fee, and said they had never received any royalties from them.

He also found it inappropriate to be categorized in the same fee structure as a venue that has 1,000 seats. "I started doing what I do to support my friends that are starving artists," he said. "But I'm not helping those artists by doing this. ASCAP doesn't care what music I play — if I play Turkish folk songs or African songs from Mali, if I do cover tunes. ... So if the publishing world allows ASCAP to collect money from me on behalf of artists and those artists don't get it, that's just wrong."

So how do ASCAP and BMI know when copyrighted music is being played? While ASCAP did not respond to our queries, BMI's Surdoval pointed us to an online explanation of its live royalty system, which is divided into three categories: pop, classical, and BMI Live. For pop concerts, BMI uses an "independent source of live pop concert information to identify and create a database of the top 300 concert tours and/or concert events/festivals each quarter." Royalty payments are then calculated after obtaining set lists from the headliners and opening acts. For those not in the top three hundred tours in the country, BMI recently launched a program called BMI Live, which relies on musicians to file gig reports of their own to verify copyrighted music played live. ASCAP's royalty payment system, as outlined online, was a complicated formula involving seven different elements, including "licensee weight," "use weight," and "general licensing allocation."

Jimmy says he would be happy to pay ASCAP fees, as long as he knew the money was going to the musicians he's actually booking (he pays his artists a cut of the door fee, which ranges from nothing to $20, depending on what the artist chooses). "Because I value the arts with all my heart, I would gladly pay ASCAP if a) the rate was reasonable and b) the money actually benefitted the artists that I present. ASCAP's contract is a guarantee that the artists will never see the money." ●

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FRESH START FOR MORNIN' OLD SPORT

Oakland has inherited one of Boston's best young folk outfits.

By Will Butler

A band at its most stale can be as burdensome as an old relationship: all the weight and despair of meals without conversation or tetchy arguments can spring forth from a stage show whose musicians are tired, bored, or malcontented.

But fresh starts by definition make things lively. And that's why your ears should spring to life to hear that a group has transplanted itself in good faith across the country just to reinvigorate its music in new surroundings. Well, tip your hat to your favorite new folk band, Mornin' Old Sport.

It's a Biblical 3,000 miles from Boston to Oakland. On foot, it'll actually take forty days and forty nights to trek. They didn't walk, luckily. The band's first two members rolled into town a few weeks ago with essentially nothing (all their possessions are locked in a Boston storage unit that they can't afford to ship out). They dug up a rental in East Oakland and began looking for work. Other members trickled in gradually — one stayed longer in Colorado to master the debut album that they had been recording since September. And at the Albatross Pub on Thursday night, the slightly remodeled group was back together, seemingly content, its core members totally, almost cloyingly in love with one another.

The first thing you learn about Scott Nanos and Kate Smeal is that they have a band; the second thing you learn is that they're engaged. Her voice is pure and antique, crackling with emotion and years of well-spent jazz vocal training. His voice is more amused, beaming as though he's smiling over a joke that he's not quite ready to tell yet.

Then you meet Jeff Price — though he's not a key songwriter, he seems like the silent mastermind. He engineered their recordings at his father's studio in the Rocky Mountain state, where Nanos says they got their hands on quality gear. "We were playing Forties archtops, Fifties Fender electrics, old tube amps, and all the piano tracks we recorded on a hundred-year-old Steinway."

The two newest additions — Mike Schlenoff and Pete Calderwood — will flesh out the band's sound with guitar, keys, and washboard. Also transplants from Martha's Vineyard, Schlenoff and Calderwood played in a folk/bluegrass outfit called The Hogstompers, a band that Mornin' Old Sport ceremoniously "got married to" in a hoe-down at a church on the vacation island last year.

Mornin' Old Sport are obsessed with old timey music.

Your Grandparents Will Jam to These Tracks, an EP released in August, references a relatively specific era, nestled somewhere in between Dixieland and "post-war" jazz, a term which the *Village Voice* famous dubbed an "arbitrary roadmap." As roadmaps go, however, Mornin' Old Sport is as musically nomadic as its members' real travels might have you guess. Though the EP's three parlor tunes would fit squarely into a 1930s cocktail soirée, dig back a year and find a gem like "Cold Secret," unmistakably echoing Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changing" or Donovan's "Catch The Wind."

As Berklee-educated musicians, their range is unmistakable, and it's clear that they could go any direction. But their new album is American folk in nearly the most classic sense, even verging on country. Nanos, who's the first to admit he's got a bit of an F. Scott Fitzgerald fixation, laughs about how the band has changed.

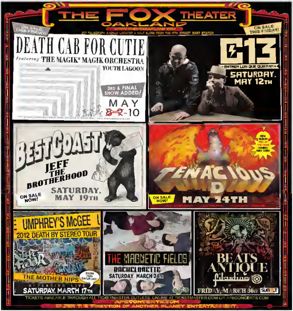
"[The new record] is even more old-times than the EP — basically we just keep getting more old-timey as we keep going on," he said. "Whereas the EP sounds pretty Thurber Jazz Age, this one also has like an old Western swing and bluegrass tinge to it."

You don't learn until later (or until you watch their old videos) that there's one member of the group conspicuously missing. Zebulon Krall, possessor of the rounded baritone you'll hear on many tracks, didn't make it to California. After their five-month recording slog, he jumped ship with a slew of disparaging words about the project. His change of heart is still a bit of a mystery to them.

A few of Krall's tunes remain on the debut LP, and they're undeniably as lovely as the rest. Nanos seems to have nothing but good-natured regret for the way it worked out, and he and Smeal are forging ahead, writing new songs and planning what'll no doubt be the classiest wedding you'll hear about in 2012. ◆

Will.Butler@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details
Mornin' Old Sport will play at Vitus (201 Broadway, Oakland) on Thursday, Mar. 15, 9:30 p.m. $5. VitusOakland.com



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THU 3/15 9:00 pm $10 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT
STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL

FRI 3/16 9:00 pm $12 $10 students REGGAE
7TH ST SHOWCASE:
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Saturday, March 17:
39th Anniversary Party!
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Andrew Pritchett, Rachel Garlin, Shelley Doty, Maggie Forti, Green n Reel
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SUN 3/18 3:00 pm $6 adults $4 kids "SOGGY SUNDAYS" KIDS SERIES
LADYBUG PICNIC
Fun-filled original acoustic music and folk/rock sing-along classics!

SUN 3/18 7:30 pm $10 BENEFIT
REDWOOD DAY SCHOOL ROCK BAND PROGRAM

TUE 3/20 8:30 pm $10 CAJUN ZYDECO
CZ & THE BON VIVANTS
8 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson

WED 3/21 9:00 pm $10 GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT
STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
8 pm Book of Dead to the World

THU 3/22 8:00 pm $10 NUEVO CHAMBER
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FRI 3/23 9:30 pm $13 $10 students WORLD FUSION
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+ ASH GARY WORLD BLUES BAND

SAT 3/24 9:30 pm $13 $10 students BRAZILIAN
FORRÓ BRAZUCA
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SUN 3/25 3:00 pm $6 adults $4 kids "SOGGY SUNDAYS" KIDS SERIES
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CD REVIEWS

LOW-END THEORIES

Skinny rap, fringe electronica and floaty electro

Stik Figa

As Himself

"Humble and hungry" is one of the most well-entrenched credos in hip-hop, and Topeka rapper Stik Figa apparently takes it literally. The title of his 2009 mixtape *It Ain't Easy Bein Skinny* may have been intended as humor, though it also made the emcee look like a famine victim. His current album jacket, for a remarkably slick April debut, shows Stik Figa bathrobe-clad and downtrodden, polishing off a huge bowl of Honey Bunches of Oats. And lest you question his humility, Stik Figa — whose real name is John Westbrook Jr. — lards the opening track of *As Himself* with self-disparagement. He was a nerd in high school, girls didn't like him, he covets luxury items that are well beyond his price range (a Chevy truck with hydraulics, and an engraved pimp chalice, for example), and everyone doubts his authenticity. *Got grades in school, got told I wasn't black*, Stik Figa grouses in the second verse. It truly ain't easy bein' skinny.

While a vast catalog of complaints doesn't always become a rapper, in Stik Figa's case, it's very much part of building a persona. He's taken a populist stance that can also double as a form of male preening, particularly when he shifts from stories of working-class upbringing to a weirdly detailed description of his hair. The theme stays consistent on *As Himself*, as you get the sense of a tangible, likeable character being squeezed through the platitudes. More importantly, Stik Figa is a talented emcee. His beats, all produced by DC auteur Oddisee, have the chunky horns and rubber-band bass lines of Seventies funk. And Stik Figa tends to stay in the pocket, even rapping double-time. (Mello Music Group)

— Rachel Swan

Various Artists

West In Dust 2012

The West In Dust compilation is another reason why the future of the industry may rest in the hands of tastemakers. Self-professed music nerds Dave Reep (of 3rd Culture Records) and Glenn Jackson (an *XLR8R* writer, who runs the blog/label *Mayaus*) started Oakland's West In Dust label to champion low-end theories from the artistic fringes of electronica. They curated the record by contacting musicians they'd been following on SoundCloud, as well as soliciting tracks from Oakland artists that, Jackson says, they "pretty much see on a daily basis." This month they're offering the comp as a free download on their website and Bandcamp page.

While the artists are as far afield as Australia and the UK, trends emerge: heavy bass counterbalanced by the rhythmic ticks and taps of two-step, and moody vocals, sampled and distorted until their meaning is stripped and the voice blends into the instrumentation.

Possibly because their vocals are more intact, the quieter tracks stand out. Placeholder's "Pet Pan" is like a soft-shoe routine ruptured by bass and punctured by verbal exhortations. Yalls' "Outerbanks" is cut-up keys with spooky crooning. And Cole's graceful clodhopper "You're Mine" makes its case with those two words, repeated over a slow rolling avalanche of live drums, steel drums, and rumbly white noise.

The West In Dust co-founders also appear on the comp. Dave Reep turns in the glossy, multi-tiered house number "All I Can Say" (credited as Elephant & Castle) as well as glitchy, Melbourne-spiced "Step Right" (credited as Rave Deep). Glenn Jackson puts forth "Fell," a mid-tempo funky house number that slowly burns through electronic rhythms and patterns that are at once familiar but deftly reutilized. (self-released)

— David MacFadden Elliott

Anenon

Acquiescence EP

Anenon is an artist who gives you very few footholds. If you're content to float, though, limbs splayed, back stroking the ambient River Liffey, the *Acquiescence EP* should make a peerless eighteen-minute journey.

Brian Allen Simon is putting out this EP on his own Non Projects label at the end of the month in anticipation of his full length, and it's a great introduction to Simon's abilities. He's a skillful collage artist, dropping haunting beats over familiar, high-frequency orb-like audio environs. Add him to the list of electro-acoustic producers who use water sounds to great effect. He sits handsomely alongside Balam Acab, Shlohmo, or locals such as Spare Ghost.

On *Acquiescence*, though, Simon sounds best when he's swimming in his own lane; not necessarily when he's responding to a style that's derivative of the LA beat scene. Not to say that's bad or even the least bit unappealing, but the found-sound rhythmic loops, saxophone click-clacks, and angelic synth pads aren't the most compelling elements, despite the ambience that they create. Where Anenon shines is at the piano.

Of the five tracks on the EP, three of them feature Anenon's meditative keyboard explorations. "Clairvoyance" is a simple cadence intensified by slow-mo, machine-gun, typewriter percussion expertly faded and layered upon itself. "Equilibrium" is more of a romantic imagining, an only-slightly repetitive hand-holding affair. "Rites" swoops in at the end to open up the piano top and tinker with both a sparse and rich splendor akin to a Sigur Rós instrumental. *Acquiescence* is out digitally March 27, and his *Inner Hue* LP drops May 1. (Non-Projects)

— Will Butler

LOCAL LICKS

BY RACHEL SWAN

Kossak

You Forgot to Kick It

Left field industrial music is deeply embedded in Record Label Records' aesthetic. Amazingly, though, the first song on this new album by producer Lucas Patack, aka Kossak, is pretty catchy. It has a Middle Eastern, microtonal melody line that sounds pretty funky coupled with software percussion. Eventually, the melody gets atomized and weird, but even then it retains some musical qualities. (Record Label Records)

Jordan Carp

Slam Pig

Jordan Carp does himself no favors by starting this album with an anti-hipster satire. But the rest is well-crafted and surprisingly luxuriant, particularly for a guitar-drums duo. The melodies are warm, hooky, and perfectly serviceable in a pop context. "Let's Have a Three Way" is annoying; "Smart=Money" is inventive. (self-released)

Great Girls Blouse

Horrible Heart

Don't judge an EP by its title, particularly if the title invites only two possible interpretations — "pity party" or "sickeningly emo." Singer Amy Chaney is neither. Rather, she's one of those fierce frontwomen with a Linda Perry contralto and a tendency to linger on a note before letting it vibrate. The group's songs are about love and loss; they're all sung in a desperate or ferocious way. (self-released)

At The Hotel Utah (500 4th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Mar. 29, 8:30 p.m. $6.

Shady Maples

[illegible]

Were it not for the folk music revival, guitarists Owen Roberts and Greg Peters might have to court the muse by brewing beer or writing poetry about nature. Actually, they do both — Peters, who plays lap steel, is the beer connoisseur, and Roberts lards his material with descriptions of the natural world. Their impressive debut includes a whole battery of guests (among them singer Kelly McFarling). It combines peppy rhythms with darkly minor-key tunes.

At Rasputin Music (2401 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Sunday, Apr. 15, 2 p.m., free.

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

THURS. MAR. 15 · [illegible] ADV/[illegible] DOOR · DOORS 7:30 SHOW 8
KALX PRESENTS
MICHAEL GIRA OF SWANS
[illegible]

FRI. MAR. 16 · [illegible] ADV/[illegible] DOOR · DOORS 8 SHOW 9
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SUN. MAR. 25 · $[illegible] ADV/$[illegible] DOOR · DOORS 7 SHOW 8
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ROY LONEY & THE PHANTOM MOVERS

[illegible]
Gibson

CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Ed Masuga with Manner Old Sport, Vitus. 9 p.m. $5
Nelson Farley's East, 8:30 p.m., free
Willie Nelson with [illegible] @ The [illegible], Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $55

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] happy hour. Yoshi's Oakland, 8:30 p.m. free
[illegible] [illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $15
Ted Dibble Creole jazz with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley, 8 p.m. free
[illegible] [illegible] Lighthouse, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]? Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5
[illegible] [illegible] Peter's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free
[illegible] plays [illegible] Cesar Velarde, 5 p.m. free
[illegible] with [illegible] Mile High Club, 7 p.m.
[illegible] [illegible] Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m. free
[illegible] with [illegible] of "Death to The World," at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] performance, [illegible] Oakland, 9 p.m. $10-$15
[illegible] live. The New Parish, 9 p.m. $25-$30

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] Chumbas, The [illegible] of Marbles, Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $6-$12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & **John Doyle** Brice & Martel Music Hall, 3 p.m. $15-$20
[illegible] [illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 9 & 10:30 p.m. $18

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Bustillos Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 7:30-11 p.m. free
Eddie Marshall [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free
George [illegible] Scott [illegible] 6:30 p.m.
The [illegible] Le Colonial, 7:30 p.m. free
[illegible] Jones San Francisco-based Jones performs live jazz and blues. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] & The [illegible] with [illegible] Three Pickles, 9 p.m. $7
The [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], 9 p.m. $8
The Pretty Reckless with The Parlor Mob and The Hollywood Kills, Regency of the [illegible], 8 p.m. $10
The Pretty Reckless with The Parlor Mob and The Hollywood Kills, Regency of the [illegible], 8 p.m. $15
[illegible] with The Relationship and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] [illegible] Sean McArdle Band [illegible] & the Mates, and Bryan McPherson. Hotel Utah, 9 p.m. $7
[illegible] with The [illegible] and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $7

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] with [illegible] The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $22.50
Ana & Los [illegible] [illegible] 9:30 p.m., free
[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] & dancing with [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m. $12

More Listings Online
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FRIDAY 16

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] High Street Station Cafe, 7 p.m.
[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m.

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Fridays [illegible] Center For The Arts, 7 p.m. free
Oakland East Bay Symphony: Steps On The [illegible] Michael Morgan, conductor. Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m. $20-$70
Steps On The [illegible] featuring [illegible] in C Minor, [illegible] Paris, and [illegible] Violin Concerto. Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m., $10-$80

Gospel & Vocal

"[illegible]" Gospel [illegible] plus rap, spoken word, drama, vocalists, musicians. 8 years, Bay Area Christian Connection, 7 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Art Lande with Bill Douglass and [illegible] Piedmont Piano Company, 8 p.m., $20
Doug Arlington 57th Jones Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15
Jim Jones Jazz Trio Spuntino, 8:30 p.m.
Ted Dibble Jones, jazz with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] & The [illegible], and [illegible] Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] with [illegible] Jon Hoffman, [illegible], and [illegible] Vitus, 9 p.m. $10
The [illegible] with [illegible] & The Mates, and [illegible] Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m. $7-$10
[illegible] blues, covers of [illegible] swing, jazz, & pop. Peter's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] & East Bay Soul Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

7th St. [illegible] featuring [illegible] [illegible] and special guests, backed by the 7th St. Band. Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $12-$15
[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 9 p.m. $8-$12
[illegible] Tropixel, 8 p.m. free

[illegible] with [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m. $8-$10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

"[illegible]" [illegible] Plough and Stars, 9 p.m. $6-$10 sliding scale
The [illegible] [illegible] & Martel Music Hall, 9 p.m. $15-$20
The [illegible] with [illegible] and The Courtney Jones, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $12-$15
[illegible] [illegible] Restaurant, 8 p.m.-midnight, free
Keith [illegible] [illegible] & Jones, 9 & 10 p.m., $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m. free
[illegible] [illegible] Top of the Mark, 9 p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible] Books and Records, 5:30-8 p.m., free
Eddie Marshall [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free
George [illegible] Scott Howard, 6:30 p.m.
The [illegible] Big Band & Cabaret with The [illegible] Social Aid & Pleasure Club and The Nice Guy Trio. Palace of the Fine Arts, 8:30 p.m. $10
Postcard From The Current State of Jazz featuring [illegible] and [illegible], 8 p.m. $8-$20

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] with The [illegible] Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10
Drive By Truckers with [illegible]. The Fillmore, 9 p.m. $22.50
[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m. $7
Feed Me with Teeth with [illegible]. The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m. $[illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] Room, 10 p.m. $10
[illegible] with The [illegible], Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m. $8
[illegible] with [illegible] of Light, [illegible] and [illegible] Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with Zach McCarter and the [illegible] Band, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 17

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] [illegible] annual St. Patrick's Day celebration featuring [illegible] with Fergus, the [illegible] of California, and John [illegible] & The [illegible] Night Cafe [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $10

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Urban [illegible], 8 p.m. $15, $20
[illegible] St. Patrick's Day celebration. High Street Station Cafe, 7 p.m., $5-$15
[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
[illegible] Family Singers [illegible] Starry Plough, 5 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant Garde

Larry [illegible] & [illegible] Pretty Chapel, 8 p.m. $15-$20

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] [illegible] world. Concert, "For Jesus Who Saves" [illegible] College, 8 p.m. $15-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] 57th Jones Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15
[illegible] [illegible] Theatre, 8 p.m. $25-$65
[illegible] Jupiter, 9 p.m. free

PICKS

Chrisette Michele

SFJAZZ prides itself on adventurous programming, which means it gives the term "jazz" a lot of latitude — world music, improvised noise, and neo-soul artists like India.Arie all fit the bill. But Chrisette Michele is a pretty bold leap into the pop realm, even by those standards. A well-known radio balladeer with an almost birdlike soprano, Michele is known both for her delicate phrasing and her tart lyrics — the hook on her most popular hit, "Epiphany," goes, *I think I'm just about over being your girlfriend*. She's one of those singers who easily flits between genres. Michele's roots are actually in hip-hop, as she has sung hooks on Rick Ross' "Aston Martin Music" and Jay-Z's "Lost One," and added a layer of polish to Nas' "Can't Forget About You." But she's also collaborated with Musiq Soulchild and Blue Note pianist Robert Glasper, who featured the singer on his latest album. For a singer to be well-respected in both the jazz and commercial hip-hop worlds is rare, and it's a testament to Michele's personality as well as her dexterity. She'll appear this Saturday, Mar. 17, at The Paramount Theatre (2025 Broadway, Oakland). 8 p.m., $25-$65. SFJAZZ.org

Chrisette Michele

Terry Malts

[illegible] outThen scene — *Rachel Swan*

Terry Malts

In retrospect, it was a pretty bold move for Corey Cunningham, Phil Benson, and Nathan Sweatt to all but abandon their other band, Magic Bullets, in order to take on Terry Malts as a project. Magic Bullets was, after all, doing quite well for itself, pumping out authentic, Nineties-tinged indie-pop that still managed to be of the adequately edgy Pitchfork-approved variety, popping up at music festivals around the country as sound killer-made for outdoor singalongs, and netting placement on big-name soundtracks like that of *Gossip Girl* (!) and the Lisa Kudrow comedy *Kabuary*. But the Oakland trio apparently also wanted to explore its harder side, which in this case means raw, ragged, fuzzed-out-beyond recognition, Ramones-esque pop-punk, delivered fast and loose with kinetic energy and more shred per square inch than you ever thought possible — and, N.B., the sweet melodic soul that made Magic Bullets so appealing in the first place. Sometimes big risks pay off beautifully. At 1-2-3-4 Go Records (420 40th St., Oakland) with Kids on a Crime Spree and Manatee on Saturday, Mar. [illegible] 1234GoRecords.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Motorstrider

Th[illegible] Berkeley [illegible] has the rare quality of being instantly favorable to the ears, and a curious knack for sounding exceptionally familiar and yet like no one else in particular. In passing, I've made comparisons to Jeff Buckley and Paul Simon, but have heard others mention Yeasayer, Foals, and numerous other groups, many of which I doubt the band members would list as influences. That's because they have a sound that many bands strive toward. Singer Nathan Salman's spry falsetto is pure and innocent, but well-controlled, guitarist Alex Seigel plays impeccably, though he's only one of five other members that give harmony to Salman's already swelling songs. Their tunes are carefree and danceable, and appropriate to St. Patrick's Day, which marks their first major headlining show in San Francisco. Equally promising little-known rube rockers Dreams and The Buttercream Gang will support. At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Mar. 17. 10 p.m. $10. BottomoftheHill.com — *Will Butler*

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy. 5:30 p.m., free

Macy Blackman & the Mighty Mofo's Piedmont Piano Company. 8 p.m., $15.

Robert Glasper Experiment with Bilal (vocals), Derrick Hodge (bass), Mark Colenburg (drums) and Casey Benjamin (vocoder, sax), plus special guest DJ Cau (The People Party). The New Parish. 8 p.m., $20-$25

Soul Vibes smooth jazz with guest vocalist singers. The Alley, 8 p.m., free.

Kids

Las Aventuras de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m. $8, kids $6.

Rock & Pop

Dave Rainey piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop. Peter's Restaurant, 5 p.m., free.

The Hooks with Mystic Knights of the Cobra, Eastern Span, and Jokes for Feelings. The Uptown. 9 p.m., $7

Rad Malton Cosmo Volaroo. 9 p.m., $5

Monkeys in Space with Fall On Wheels, Rocha, AKA Evolution, and The American Extremes. Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

Public Nuisance with Out of Tune, Chromakoto, and Spacewaves. Giggle Eli's Mile High Club. 7 p.m.

Russel Alley Hobos Value. 8 p.m., $5

Terry Malts with Kids On A Crime Spree and Manatee. 1-2-3-4 Go! Records. 7 p.m.

Singley's McBee with The Mother Hips. Fox Theatre. 7:30 p.m., $28

Woody World La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $12-$15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Rell @ Everett & Jones. 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Joel Hanstrup & Mmmmmm with singers in the round: Ashkenaz's 39th Birthday/People's Park Benefit. Ashkenaz. 8 p.m., $13-$20.

The Y Ife San Ife Ouko Yoshi's Oakland. 8 & 10 p.m., $38

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Earnest Cool Dogpatch Saloon. 9-11 p.m., free

The Cole Harrington Irish Mojitos Brick & Mortar Music Hall. 9 p.m., $15-$20

Lacey Smith & Her Hot Hot [illegible] Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m., $21

Lucia Mattos with The Gasmen and The Jeaksing Martyrs. Cafe du Nord. 9 p.m., $11-$21

Mattheus di Matos Native folk music with Shri Migrante. Caffe Trieste. 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ann Mandara Trio live jazz. Ann Mandara. 8-11:30 p.m., free

Little Pacifica Red with guests. Pazzia San Francisco. 6-9 p.m., free

George Mesterhazy Scott Howard. 8:30 p.m.

Rock & Pop

Alabaster Dhaud with Seth Mashkin and The Rabbles. Hemlock Tavern. 9:30 p.m., $6

Alyssa [illegible] with The Iwo, Hotel Utah. 9 p.m., $8-$10

Ace Wound with Filthcom and Lost Puppy. Thee Parkside. 3 p.m., free

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DAVID GRISMAN QUINTET

Sat, March 17
PETER MURPHY

Sun March 18
BARBARY COAST BURLESQUE

Mon, March 19
ARNOLD McCULLER & HIS BAND

Tues March 20
MANNY MOKA & THE BAND ON FIRE

Thurs, March 22 8pm
OWANA SALAZAR & NATHAN AWEAU:
HAWAIIAN HARMONIES

Thurs March 22 10:30pm
CASUAL w/ LIVE BAND

Thurs, March 22 10:30pm in The Lounge
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Fri March 23
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Fri March 23 in The Lounge
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w/ Mitchell Forman, Lionel Cordew & Eric Marienthal

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Sat Mar 17
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C&C

Beauty of the Basement with The Conspiracy of Beards. Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m. $8

Dot Dead with Hybrid, Toyboat Toyboat and Jenny Mae and the Goddamn Hawks. Hemlock Tavern. 5 p.m., $5

Go Theo! with Ruletta Band, Bide Effects, The Men, and Let It Grand. The Knockout. 8 p.m. $6

Jim Bowmont The Regency Showline. 8 p.m. $54.50

La Plaba with Snake Cranium and The Fuckin' Buckaroos. El Rio. 8 p.m., $8

Subgia Urbina with the Annex and Steep Objects. Thee Parkside. 5 p.m., $25

Motorstrider with Tomand and The the Longtown Gang. Bottom of the Hill. 8 p.m. $11

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Goodfell & Bazaar Dry Moonshine. Boom Boom Room. 3:30 p.m. $7

Sage Francis with Metermouth and 2Mex. The Independent. 9 p.m. $20

Saturday Night Soul Party with the Lucky Paul Paul and Phengren Guisand. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $5-$10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Karlana Balkan with Brass Menazeri and the Zeppa. Showdown Corp. 8 p.m. $10

SUNDAY 16

EAST BAY

All Ages

Art Beat Bazaar featuring Kelly McFarland, Christine Bailey and more. Starry Plough. 3 p.m. free

Armonic Bay Bazaar Rock Bands Ashkenaz. 1:30 p.m. $8-$5

Blues, Folk & Country

Jammaboo! Unbounced Jupiter. 5 p.m. free

Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week. Peter's Restaurant. 5 p.m. free

The San Francisco Armonic Ensemble plays hard gems from Russia and the Ukraine. Rhythmic Cultural Center. 2 p.m. $15-$20

Sunday Morning Jams with Rev Amos. Caffe Mediterraneum. 10 a.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dance Piedmont Piano Company. 8 p.m. $15

Dolo Fobe 57th Street Gallery. 8 p.m. $12-$15

Ill Grateful jazz-inspired piano improvisations. Hippie Gypsy Cafe. 12:30 p.m. free

Dance Bazaar open mic jam. Eart Coffee. 12-2 p.m. free

Jazz and R&B Night Tinney's Locker. 6-10 p.m. free

Jazz at the Vebrie Chapel of the Chimes. 2 p.m. $10-$15

Jill Olendfield Jazz Uptown classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill. 3-6 p.m. free

John Schott Actual Cafe. 5 p.m. free

Loop Bazaar Cafe Van Kleef. 9 p.m.

The Randy Bowler The Hush Lounge. 6:30-10 p.m. free

Andy Bowler Big Band Moaney's Elks Lodge Nashville. 5-8 p.m. $30 couple $35

Terrence Bazaar The Metro Restaurant & Bar. 6:30-9 p.m. free

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Kids

Saggy Goodbye Kids' series. Ashkenaz. 3 p.m. $4-$6

Rock & Pop

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Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Pablo. Oakland. 510-444-2571.

Starwind Pub 1822 San Antonio Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2473.

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8505.

Oakland Music 2456 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1125.

Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez. 925-228-8005.

Art Boutiki Gallery & Cartoon Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-412-3470.

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.

The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond. 510-237-1000.

Bench and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-1706.

Anton Davis Center for the Arts 1801 Lincoln St., Oakland. 510-523-0052.

The Bloom 1000 4th St., Berkeley. 510-986-8514.

Cafe Van Kleef 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-763-7711.

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Chester's Bayview Cafe 1508 Walnut St. #B, Berkeley. 510-849-9995.

Cafe 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-4590.

Rock 88 1111 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-269-9426.

Cafe Arrieta 438 3rd St., Oakland. 510-463-0800.

Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4224.

Georgie Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-2981.

Dan's Irish Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-938-1201.

Dance Bazaar 341 14th St., Oakland. 510-663-2211.

Duggan Hall 2305 Oakland Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6365.

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4990.

El's Mile High Club 3009 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-594-0306.

Era Art Bar and Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-832-4492.

Lounge & Dance Bazaar 126 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2250.

Cafe Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-849-3690.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-3555.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-302-2250.

Forum 111 W. Harrison Rd., Hayward. 510-783-1700.

George & Settings 2000 Oakland St., Oakland. 510-544-2000.

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-0888.

High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-973-8049.

Island Paradise Cafe 1438 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-3835.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373.

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237.

John Patrick's 1913 Park St., Alameda. 510-523-5325.

Julia's Bistro & Tap Webster 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-7385.

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277.

Caribbean City 1400 Webster St., Oakland. 510-251-0789.

Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-6400.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-5464.

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888.

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568.

Lake Merritt Garden Center 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4793.

Lakeshore Webster Street Lounge 3834 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-893-2484.

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543.

The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1506.

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-523-4700.

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-530-3411.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677.

Barbara's Sports Bar & Grill 2735 N Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7889.

Shannon's Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland. 510-628-6300.

Cafe Cottage 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2256.

Shattuck Lounge 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2988.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland. 510-444-7474.

Oasis Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344.

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland. 510-238-8830.

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Rhythmic Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-601-5300.

The Royal Standard 1745 San Antonio Ave., Oakland.

Morning Garden 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-4017.

Theatre Jammaboo! 3100 Clement Ave., Alameda. 510-337-6590.

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland. 510-444-7224.

Sunset North 43058 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-979-0417.

Berkeley Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159.

Oakland Nightclub 2409 San Ramon Valley Blvd. (Ste. 130), San Ramon. 925-831-2411.

Shoreline Amphitheatre 1 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View. 650-967-3000.

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300.

Spoonbender Lounge 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-944-1888.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-848-5107.

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

Annex Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-0414.

Annex 1510 1510 8th St., Oakland.

Subterranean Art Center 2179 Bonita Way, Berkeley. 510-981-1201.

Anton Fingers 464 E. 18th St., San Leandro. 510-553-8588.

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100.

Bender's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord. 925-686-3585.

Vitus 201 Broadway, Oakland. 510-452-1870.

Garden Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450.

Oakland Jammaboo! UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-4295.

White Horse Inn 6556 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820.

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

Zoe's Basement 512 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-839-9224.

New Parish, 8 p.m. $5, $8
The Hubs Quibbling Disco Volante, 8 p.m. free
Cindy LaFontaine Secret Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m. free
The Night David Cell with Blue Skies and Disappearing People, Vitus, 8 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Poetic Steps: Live Emcees [illegible] Taproom & Lounge, 8 p.m., free dinner 10:30 pm, $5 thereafter

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Aurelio con Alma Yoshi's Oakland, 7 p.m. $15
Domingo De dance Afro-Cuban dance percussion & dance party, Café [illegible], 3:30-6:30 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Hubba featuring special guests Michael Mercado, [illegible] & Hank [illegible], Hotel Utah, noon, free
Gates Ros with the Cerbaros, Thee Parkside, 4 p.m. free
Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. to midnight, $8
Terry Sprecioso Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Classical & Opera

J. S. Bach: Magnificat & Hubba Gates Calvary Presbyterian Church, 4 p.m. $25-$30
Michael Bakers on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., $59 for dinner, plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Hubba with Future Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $30 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rock of the Way Sunday cabaret series, Sinbad, 8 p.m. $20-$30, $80 dinner and show
Hubba Hubba Experiment featuring [illegible] on vocals [illegible] Mega Dan and special guest [illegible] (The People Party), Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $20-$25
Sandy Simmons and Kenosagan Brasileiro Plus Jo, 4:30 p.m. $15
Ford Lateone & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, Sam Grobe[illegible], & Mark Sittman, Doggeton Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

The Amazing Embarrassments with Metal Circus (afternoon BBQ), Ritmo of the Hill, 3 p.m. $10, $12
Feedlim with Dead Meat and [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 6 p.m. $10
Jello Biafra and the Guantanamo School of Medicine with [illegible] Cobra and Pins of Light, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. $10
Scannod Gary Showcase featuring Ragnesia, Katie Clover and Aeon Ash, Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8
The Gauze Jerks with Paul Whalen and The Sidemakers, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8

MONDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

"Uptown Hubba Hubba" live burlesque with Hubba Hubba Revue, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

El Cerrito High School Jazz Bands Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $10-$15

Rock & Pop

1-9 A.M. & The Bful Sellers Vitus, 9:30 p.m. $5
Mark Red Sky with Ancient Warlocks, Holy Fee and Hubba of Reconciliation, Eli's Mile High Club, 5 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jour Rot Le Colonial, 7 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Bond Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m. free
Roadsinwarlin with Ben Baxter, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $25

TUESDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night with lessons, Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 7:30-10 p.m., free
CC & The Bon Viveurs with Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $10
Bart Craig Disco Volante, 8 p.m., free
Hubba Henry Pedal's Restaurant, 7:30-9 p.m. free
Tuesday Night Live Gotter This week: Snake City Jug Band, Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 p.m. $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Western: Western Jazz Quintet Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $21
Eddie Pasternak Duo with Penn Guston, Café Rouge, 6:37 p.m. free
Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley Bread School, Jupiter, 8 p.m. free
Red Dibble classic jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Savetzow Vitus, 8 p.m. $5
Vilad [illegible] Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Blue Candle spoken word event with comedy and Mic, Sweeny's Locker, 7 p.m. free
Iamnignore Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Stompy Bone Verdi Club, 9:30 p.m. $10

Blues, Folk & Country

Don Raw with Sunny Pete, Café du Nord, 8 p.m. $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 p.m. $5-10
Thursday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays swing jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, Verdi Club, 8 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Agisted with The Family Flow, Playboy School and David & Blasper, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $7
Dekkila with Jungle Pat, Abigail Williams and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m. $25
Diego's Umbrella Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 p.m. free
[illegible] Wong with Woodsman and David [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $7
Great Apes with [illegible], Know Your Saints, [illegible] and 13 Space Hearts, The Knockout, 8:30 p.m. $6

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THU 3/15 @ 5pm	DJ Labowitz Plays Happy Hour [illegible] Piano [illegible] The Angel & Rabor [illegible] presented Every Third Saturday
FRI 3/16 @ 9:30pm	[illegible] All Things [illegible]
SAT 3/17	Hot Flannel!
SUN 3/18 @ 8pm	[illegible] Goldbelle
MON 3/19 @ 8pm	[illegible] Volante with dj Reed [illegible] eclectic vinyl [illegible] selections and live painting from [illegible] Oakland underground
TUE 3/20 @ 8pm	[illegible] country blues guitar [illegible] Digital Underground

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THU 3/15
SELECTOR SUPPORTGROUP
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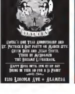
[illegible] facebook.com/[illegible]

FRI 3/16
MACABEA
[illegible] Brazilian ensemble making a splash in the SF Latin Jazz scene. Brazilian [illegible] is often difficult to categorize; you'll find Brazilian artists in the Jazz, Latin, World or even Pop sections of music stores. The four musicians of Macabea say: don't label it, simply listen or dance to it, if you feel the urge. And you probably will. It doesn't matter whether it's a classic Bossa or a festive Samba, you'll tap your foot and find yourself humming the beautiful melodies even after the performance.
www.myspace.com/macabeaband

SAT 3/17
EGGPLANT CASINO BAND
[illegible] celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the genre-defying Eggplant Casino Band. EC design and perform music with such distinct qualities and inspiring messages that one cannot help but feel elevated. Under the firm yet loving hand of composer multi-instrumentalist and effervescent front-man [illegible] the Eggplant Casino performs music that defies description yet is oddly accessible and oddly ubiquitous. Our influences are diverse, sometimes seemingly contradictory, and include the Talking Heads, Serge Gainsbourg, [illegible], The Velvet Underground, [illegible], Cole Porter, Penguin Cafe Orchestra, Devotchka, and Jorge Ben.
[illegible] facebook.com/eggplantcasino



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C[illegible]C

Japan Nite 2012 featuring Vampillia, [illegible] Rakes, [illegible] and [illegible]. The Independent. 5 p.m. $15
Kaiser [illegible] with Wet Ole Moon and [illegible]. The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $25
Lovey Dove with [illegible] and Wild Spirit. Bottom of the Hill. 9 p.m. $10
Mara Hari Sky with Ancient Warlocks and Sword Whale. [illegible] Music Hall. 9 p.m. $8-$10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Wooster with Heaven and Vendetti. Boom Boom Room. 9:30 p.m. $5

WEDNESDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Whiskey Wooster old-time and bluegrass. Albatross Pub. 8 p.m. Free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] & The Sweet Blues [illegible] Apothecary. 4:30 p.m. Free
Mera's Song Trio with Deanna Douglas. [illegible]. Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $20
Jazz [illegible] Performance Piece with Kim Garrett 5th Street Gallery. 6-8 p.m.
Live Jazz Firehouse [illegible]. 7:30 p.m. Free
Red Ribbon dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley. 8 p.m. Free
[illegible] [illegible]. Campo di Bocce. 6-9 p.m. Free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 p.m. Free
Hans [illegible] piano concert of standards, old-time jazz. 6 p.m. [illegible] Restaurant.

8 p.m. Free
Hootenanny with Bonneville Power Company, [illegible] and Perfume Flower. Stork Club. 9 p.m. $5
KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big Thief weekly rock band showcase. The Uptown. 5:30 p.m. Free
Third Night Spaceadelic Lounge. 8 p.m. Free
[illegible] Allen & Mama Blues with broadcast of "Dead To The World" at 6 p.m. Ashkenaz. 4 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae Flash and Al Monsoor. Honey's Locker. 1-11 p.m. Free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Pro Blues Jam with Special Market Biscuits & Blues. 4 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dan Marcello and the Bottom Bodies Top of the Mark. 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10
[illegible] with [illegible]. Amnesia. 7 p.m.
[illegible] with the [illegible] Market [illegible]. Amnesia. 8 p.m. Free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with The Coffin Brothers and The Mountain Man [illegible]. Hotel Utah. 8 p.m. $6
[illegible] Brick & Mortar Music Hall. 9 p.m. $8-$10
Olympics with [illegible] The Wrong Words, and [illegible]. Wooster Tavern. 8:30 p.m. $7
[illegible] with [illegible], Heavy Cream and [illegible], and The Clams. Bottom of the Hill. 8:30 p.m. $12
Nada Surf with An Horse. The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $22.50
Perfume Market with Paranormal Bats. Cafe du Nord. 8 p.m. $12
Sharon Van Etten with The War On Drugs and [illegible]. The Independent. 9 p.m. $25
Sound & Shapes with [illegible] (Closing Set) and [illegible]. [illegible]. 9 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Birthday Bash with [illegible], Souls of Mischief, [illegible], and [illegible]. [illegible]. 4 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] Clinton & [illegible] Funkadelic The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. $32.50
Pleasure Sessions Dance party with Billy Magic Pleasuremaker, [illegible]. Boom Boom Room. 9:30 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] with Zack McCarter and the Reveal. Boom Boom Room. 9:30 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Latin [illegible]. Peña Pachamama. 8 p.m. $12

More Listings Online

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Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St, Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

1015 Folsom 1015 Folsom St., 415-431-1200
[illegible] 150 Harriet St., 415-284-[illegible]
111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna St., 415-974-1719
222 Club 222 Hyde St., 415-440-0222
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
[illegible] 1165 Folsom St., 415-431-1261
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
[illegible] 1600 Bush St., 415-771-[illegible]
[illegible] 3 Fillmore Pl. 415-346-4150
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0323
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583
Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000
Bottom of The Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
Brick & Mortar Music Hall 1710 Mission St., 415-800-8782
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Club International 568 Haight St., 415-553-7131
[illegible] 800 Vallejo St., 415-982-2565
[illegible] 1180 Market St., 415-431-3332
The [illegible] 885 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 470 Florida St., 415-278-3268
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
[illegible] 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El [illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-437-4240
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
[illegible] 1031 Polk St., 415-922-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
[illegible] 3920 Geary Blvd., 415-346-0173
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777
[illegible] 1300 Polk St., 415-885-4585
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
[illegible] 530 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
Mighty 119 Utah St., 415-762-0151
[illegible] 1840 Haight St., 415-387-6455
The [illegible] 66 West Portal Ave., 415-664-2044
[illegible] 1001 Sansome St.,
415-454-5238
[illegible] 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Peña Pachamama 1630 Powell St., 415-646-0018
[illegible] 170 Erie St., 415-932-0955
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., 888-929-7849
[illegible] Lounge 628 20th St., 415-[illegible]
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
[illegible] 498 [illegible] St., 415-347-5344
[illegible] 322 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Ruby Skye 420 Mason St., 415-693-0777
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
[illegible] Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-287-3458
Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
[illegible] 2925 16th St., 415-[illegible]
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286
[illegible] 399 9th St., 415-863-6623
[illegible] 2183 Mission St., 415-[illegible]-1227
Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900
Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
Temple 540 Howard St., 415-978-9942
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of The Mark 999 California St., 415-616-6916
[illegible] 601 Bush St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

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EMANCIPATOR MAR 23 in The Lounge plus Shigeto and Manley Carroll

Oakland

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JAMES COTTON'S SUPERHARP featuring ELVIN BISHOP MAR 23-25

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE The music of Stevie Wonder MAR 30-APRIL 1

THE BAD PLUS APR 13-15

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 15

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and VJ Joe C. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5, students free w/ valid ID.

[illegible] Fever w/ [illegible] spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free.

Mixed Crew w/ DJs Noel Karlo & Chris Fox. [illegible], 9 p.m., free.

[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] 9 p.m., free.

DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Aware The Layover, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ Trick spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Drop Top [illegible] w/ Salvatore Indios, [illegible] & Jay Sonic. The Layover, 10 p.m., free.

Kinky w/ resident DJ Kinzen and weekly guest DJs. Liege, 6 p.m., $5.

Jungle Jungle w/ Rob Paiton, Noel Kyla, and [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

[illegible] Night w/ DJ [illegible] plus [illegible]. Vinnie's Bar & Grill, 9 p.m., $10.

Splendor: [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., free.

Shake, Motel 'n' Roll featuring DJ Corina spinning 40s & 50s hits. Forbidden Island, 9 p.m., free.

Yardy [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15.

[illegible] Dance Palace spinning [illegible] Carlos Mena and [illegible] and Bar 9 p.m., free.

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Dance [illegible] & Missing Cat spin 80s & new wave. Cat Club, 9 p.m., free before 9:30 p.m., $6.

Afrolicious w/ DJs Sabe, Pleasuremaker, Señor Oz & guests spinning Afro-beat, samba-funk, Elbo Room, 10 p.m., $6.

[illegible] by [illegible] [illegible]. The Riptide, 7:30-10 p.m., free.

College Night DJs [illegible] spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B & more. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free.

DJ ?uestlove w/ DJ Mark Dreka. The Independent, 9 p.m., $20.

DJ [illegible] & [illegible] featuring [illegible] music. [illegible], 9 p.m., free.

[illegible] spinning funky beats & underground hip-hop. Swig Bar, 9 p.m., free.

NightLife Weekly event for those with cocktails, cool beer, [illegible] science exhibits, and rotating musical guests. This week's feature is [illegible] w/ Guest [illegible] O'Connor and [illegible] the [illegible]. California Academy of Sciences, 6-10 p.m., $12.

Pacific [illegible] Time featuring DJ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., free.

[illegible] rotating DJs. The EndUp, 10 p.m., $10.

[illegible] Dance Party w/ [illegible], and guest DJ Party Ben. Rickshaw Stop, 10 p.m., $7.

[illegible] w/ Thriftworks, [illegible], Slayers Club, and more. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 9 p.m., $10-$15.

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, house, & breaks. Icon Ultra Lounge, 10 p.m., $5.

Solid Thursdays Featuring DJ [illegible], guests. Club Six, 9 p.m., $6.

Tropicana Night DJ [illegible] & [illegible] and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue. [illegible] Art Bar, 9 p.m., free.

FRIDAY 16

EAST BAY

45 Sessions [illegible], 9:30 p.m., free.

Bar Jab w/ DJs [illegible] and No Friends spinning free raps and slow jams. The Mezzanine Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

[illegible] 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin House. Club 21, 9 p.m., $5-$15.

Spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area. [illegible], 8 p.m., $5.

"Deejays, House & Bowling" DJ [illegible] & special guests spinning bass heavy fun and bowling. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

[illegible] and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. [illegible], 7:30-11:30 p.m., free.

Friday Night Salsa w/ [illegible] spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 9 p.m., $5.

Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ [illegible], 9 p.m., $5.

Happy Hours w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, mods & soul. [illegible] Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free.

[illegible] House House w/ [illegible]. Club 1220, 9 p.m., $5.

Latin Explosion DJ [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, [illegible] Spanish pop, & salsa. Bench and Bar 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5-$15.

Mondo weekly in-house DJ series. Amoeba Music, 7:30 p.m., free.

Old School hip-hop and R&B. Radio, 9 p.m., free.

[illegible] Night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. [illegible] Club, 10 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] 80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Sultry Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. [illegible], 9 p.m., $5.

Testify w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, Motown, 60s, glam, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free.

World Beat Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] featuring Afrobeat, soca, [illegible], merengue, dancehall reggae, [illegible], Arabic House & more. Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Deep SF w/ [illegible] Wyatt, Fred Everything, and [illegible] Mighty. 10 p.m., $10.

Fat! DJs [illegible], & [illegible] King spin electro, booty, crunk, [illegible] breaks, hyphy, hip-hop, & party rhymes. [illegible] Art Bar 9 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.

DJ [illegible] spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, 80s, indie, & pop. Swig Bar 9 p.m., free.

DJ [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Art Bar 6-9 p.m., free.

Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more. Element Lounge, 9 p.m., $5.

[illegible] Friday DJs Scotty Fox, Derrick D, MCD & [illegible] spin 70s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free [illegible] 10 p.m., $10 after.

Fridays at Bar [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & crunk. [illegible], 6-9 p.m., free.

[illegible] rotating DJs. The EndUp, 11 p.m., $15. [illegible] midnight.

[illegible] (live) w/ Magic [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m., $18.

Loose Joints w/ DJ Tom Thump and [illegible]. [illegible], 10 p.m., $5.

Mondo weekly in-house DJ series. Amoeba Music, 6-8 p.m., free.

Mighty Breaks Mighty, 9 p.m., $[illegible].

Paris Baker International DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m., $5.

[illegible] spinning [illegible] 72 [illegible] [illegible] and more. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $15-$20.

[illegible] Attack w/ DJs [illegible] spinning indie, electro, dancehall, and prog. Cat Club, 9:30 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $5.

SMILE rotating live performers plus DJ [illegible] spinning rock, soul, French pop, & disco. The Knockout, 10 p.m., free.

[illegible] dance party hosted by [illegible] w/ rotating DJs. [illegible], 10 p.m., $8.

Sweet w/ DJs [illegible] & House Underground SF 9 p.m., $8.

Three Wads of Stupid Dance Party w/ DJ Brother "Birthday Boy" [illegible], Señor BAG and German-style Ping Pong beer. 8 p.m. [illegible], 9 p.m., $7.

VSL Fridays w/ rotating DJs from Bay Area and around the bass spinning hip-hop. Vessel, 9 p.m., $10.

SATURDAY 17

EAST BAY

[illegible] Productions & [illegible] spinning R&B & hip-hop. [illegible], 10 p.m., free.

[illegible] House 1 Year Anniversary. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5, $7.

[illegible] Maxwell's DJs [illegible] & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, [illegible] & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10.

Club [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar 9 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m.

Spinning Saturdays [illegible] hip-hop & house at midnight. Club 1220, 9:30 p.m.-midnight, $5.

More Listings Online

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PICKS

DJ ?uestlove

In addition to being a prodigious Twitter user and drummer for hip-hop band The Roots, ?uestlove is also well-established as a DJ. His specialty is creating narratives and propelling themes through mixes, such as the seamless Seventies soul soundtrack he wove on his 2002 album *Babies Making Babies*. The idea, it seemed, was to mix cloying pop songs like Deniece Williams' "That's What Friends Are For" with genuinely gorgeous seventies hits — e.g., the opener "Quiet Storm" by Smokey Robinson. He also made a sequel to *Babies* called *Misery Strikes*, which presented a somewhat dismal view of relationships (songs included Al Green's "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?" and The Delfonics' "I'm Sorry"), though it also revealed ?uestlove's subtle sense of humor. Well respected in the jazz, soul, and hip-hop worlds, he'll deliver what's sure to be a rousing set this Friday, Mar. 16, at The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco). Co-sponsored by Ankh Marketing and Another Planet Entertainment, the show also features DJ Mark Dreka. 9 p.m. $20. APEConcerts.com — *Rachel Swan*

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D&D

Dancehall Saturdays w/ Jubilee Roots spinning riddim selection & hip-hop. The Avenue, 8 p.m. free

"Doojays, guests & Housing" DJ Rook & special guests spinning from heavy funk and electro. Shattuck Down Low, 8 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning hardcore pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

Mamma Grappa w/ [illegible] Emily spinning hip-hop, indie pop, punk, funk, & funk. The Mayanut Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Moonlounge Bee Lounge w/ [illegible] Saint Groove. 1:30-11:30 p.m. free

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible]. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $5

La Luna Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning banda, norteño, & cumbia plus hot go-go dancers. Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Magic Mix w/ DJ Rood & guests host genre-surfing extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Pop Lounge $1 DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Stooges Night Congo Lounge, 10 p.m. free

Smoove Saturdays DJ Jamie & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaetón, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. $10

Sporo Bass spinning [illegible] and [illegible] plus special guests (official Kingman's Mellow after party). The New Parish, 11:30 p.m. $8-$10

Warm-Up w/ DJ Fuad [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Moment Lounge, 6:30 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Downtown w/ DJ Shug spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits. Milan's, 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. with voucher

DJ Rock On Swig Bar, 8 p.m., free

El Superrrlcool w/ DJs El Kool Kyle & Fingee Mas spinning cumbia, reggaetón, salsa, merengue, and world dance-pop. Make Out Room, 10 p.m. $5

Element Saturdays w/ DJ Rook Martelli spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. Element Lounge, 9 p.m. $8

Gonzo! DJs Ziza & Freadwell spin hip-hop, soul, funk, & reggae. Lambo, 9 p.m., free

Juicebox [illegible] party w/ DJs spinning 80s, new wave, & hip-hop. Cat Club, 9 p.m. free

Lovegate Mighty, 9 p.m. $10-$20

Spinning Spinning guests Party w/ [illegible] Dance house & DJ Jimmy Love, plus [illegible] dance w/ Vicki Vix at 9:30 p.m. [illegible] 9 p.m. $10-$15

Paris Suisse International DJs [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m. $5

Paso Guests Rocking Party featuring DJs [illegible] Fresh Eddy, The [illegible] & more spinning salsa, merengue, bachata, reggae, cumbia & Latin pop. [illegible] Nightclub, 10 p.m.

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ DJs Lucky, Paul-Paul, and Phengren Oswald spinning 60s Soul 45s. Elbo Room, 10 p.m. $10-$15

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club hits. The Cellar, 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m., $10 after

The Room w/ DJs [illegible], Nicole [illegible], John Early, & guests spinning house, breaks, & minimal. The EndUp, 10 p.m., $10

SUNDAY 18

EAST BAY

DJ Roody Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Open Stage w/ DJ Jabi Lee & rotating live performers, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

King of Kings DJ [illegible] and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m. $10

Major w/ DJ Lounge spinning soul, funk, & Motown and old-school. Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m. free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community dance [illegible] Soulsanctuarydance.com. Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. donations accepted

[illegible] Sundays DJs spin old, [illegible] 8 rooms reggae. The [illegible] Club, 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Classics DJs [illegible] Room, 9:30 p.m. free

Dub Mission w/ DJs Sep, J. Boogie, and Vinnie Esparza, Elbo guests 9 p.m. $6

Holding Firm DJ Sleepwalker & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF, 9 p.m. free before 10:30 p.m., $5

Honey Soundays w/ Honey Soundsystem DJs spinning dance music. Paradise Lounge, 8 p.m. $5 after 11 p.m.

Salsa Sundays w/ rotating live bands, salsa lessons [illegible] 4:30 p.m. $8

Sunday T-Dance w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] Jim Hopkins, [illegible] & more. The EndUp, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. $10

[illegible] DJ [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

MONDAY 19

EAST BAY

DJ Roots soul selector [illegible] 9 p.m. free

Monday Roadblock featuring DJs T-Sharp, [illegible]. The New Parish, 10 p.m., $5

Three-Day Weekend DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B & local [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge [illegible] 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Moment Lounge, 10 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ Kare spinning classic soul, rare grooves, & downtempo. Swig Bar, 9 p.m. free

I Hate Mondays DJ [illegible] & guests spin [illegible] from the '70s to today. Underground SF, 10 p.m. free

Karaoke Jones presented by [illegible] Krantz the Karaoke Sheet, The Cellar, 8 p.m. free

Medina Classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, bhangra, Afrobeat, & more. Little Baobab, 10 p.m. $5

Salsa Lunes w/ DJ spinning plus lessons. Café Cocomo, 7:30 p.m. $5, lessons $10

Paris Rock Slideshow with DJ Tragic & the Duchess of [illegible] [illegible] Love Songs From The Rebels and Roland Finn at 7 p.m., SF [illegible] Tavern, 10 p.m. free

Sardine Vinyl w/ DJ Jenny Hoyston spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl. Li Po, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. $2

Sorrows & [illegible] w/ Alvin [illegible], Sgt. [illegible] The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m. $25

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & Oswald spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae. Skylark, 9:30 p.m. free

Spiff Sessions w/ DJs [illegible] Kung Fu Chris [illegible] hip-hop [illegible] 10 p.m. free

TUESDAY 20

EAST BAY

[illegible] Night plus free dancing, [illegible] 12:30 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning hardcore pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Wooly spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Gonzo! college night spinning DJ Speedy & DJ Crazy C at 21, 9 p.m. [illegible]

Joe Quinn Spins Vinyl Roots [illegible] 9 p.m. free

Soul [illegible] DJs Ivan & Song spinning reggae & world beats, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] & metal. The Shattuck Down Low, 10 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Roots Up [illegible] Shelter DJs [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop & fun. Free before 11 p.m. Milk, 10 p.m. $5

[illegible] guests at [illegible] 9 p.m. $7

[illegible] & Fire spinning [illegible] beats, underground hip-hop & [illegible] grooves. Swig Bar 9 p.m., free

Old-School Hip-Hop & SF Fusion Little Baobab 9 p.m. $3

Pacific Standard Time hip-hop & soul w/ DJ Sake-1 plus live guests. 330 Ritch, 10 p.m. $5

[illegible] drum n' bass w/ DJs [illegible] Genome & [illegible] plus MC [illegible] Underground SF, 9 p.m. $5

The Punk Rock [illegible] featuring live bands plus DJ [illegible] & Pals spinning punk rock & the [illegible] Lounge. The Knockout, 10 p.m. $6

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & MC [illegible] & guests spinning late 80s and early 90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning bass tunes, The Knockout, 6-9 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 21

EAST BAY

[illegible] Vibe, 9 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ DJs Jel & [illegible], The Shattuck Lounge 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jet Set w/ DJ Santero and Lounge guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Jump Off: [illegible] Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 p.m. $8-$15

Kamikaze Sandwich w/ DJ [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m. free

Dance Night featuring [illegible] spinning [illegible] Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m. free

Mouth Off open-mic poetry, followed by DJ music. Art Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

[illegible] cowboy night w/ host [illegible] 7 p.m. $8-$15

[illegible] Punk, indie, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ DJ Rood [illegible] guests 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ. [illegible], 10 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

1002 Nights DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins North African & Middle Eastern grooves. Underground SF, 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] DJs [illegible] Santero & Marcelo spin Brazilian, Latin, Afrobeat, & more. Milk, 10 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] Wednesdays w/ DJs [illegible] spinning hip-hop, [illegible] reggae, R&B, & more. Milk, 10 p.m. free

DJ Santero spinning chilled out beats, new-school soul, underground hip-hop & stripped-down Afro-house, Swig Bar, 8 p.m. free

DJ [illegible] spinning Rock & reggaetón. Little Baobab, 9 p.m. $3

Escape DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & club remixes. The Cellar, 10 p.m. free

[illegible] Rock Space Rock [illegible] Knockout, 6-9 p.m. free

Mixtape Wednesday [illegible] & guests spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul. Skylark, 10 p.m. $5

Satellite w/ rotating guest [illegible] 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $8

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AQUARIAN AGE

TIME TO GET BUSY

For the week of March 14-20, 2012

By Raffee Finn

Throw out the retrograde rulebook, seize the creation moment and do your best to get comfortable with the idea of moving free-form through the routines of daily life. This week we're all making it up as we go along. And while the co-creative power of every moment always determines reality, the knowledge of that power usually rides beneath the surface of normal consciousness and regular routines. But not this week — so many potent moments play out simultaneously that even your omnidimensional beamer with the special antennae won't capture enough bandwidth to handle the potential for extraordinary experiences. I know ... I sound like I am exaggerating, but this is the week to err on the side of wishful thinking. So think big rather than small, and visualize what it is you want to bring into manifestation. Then focus on all the details necessary to give birth to your dreams.

Both Mercury and Mars are retrograde, but even as they seemingly move behind instead of ahead, they are busy — really, really busy — and their hustle and bustle nullifies a large portion of the normal retrograde sluggishness. For those of you new to Mercury Retrograde, because Mercury symbolizes all things related to communication and travel, conventional astrological wisdom views retrograde phases as great opportunities to review the details of what's already in motion and to refrain from starting anything new. But Mercury's current position defies that warning. Mercury is conjunct Uranus, the planet of revolution; both are in Aries, the Sign of exploration, and their united presence is a powerful combination for ingenious innovation. This is a direct celestial invitation to "think different." By the weekend, but especially by the start of the workweek and on the vernal equinox, the Sun joins this dynamic duo and its light intensifies the need for intellectual freedom as it simultaneously amplifies the need for personal freedom. Be prepared to move quickly in all areas of your life, and let stagnation become a thing of the past.

But the purely creative beauty of the week is a Grand Trine between Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Pluto, all in Earth Signs and all coalescing into a benign configuration that supports the potential to manifest the heart's desire. Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, is already forming a perfect union with Jupiter, the planet of expansion; both are conjunct in Taurus, where they are happily fostering harmonious environments and joyous attitudes. The benefits of this radiant coupling are amplified by their trine to Mars in Virgo, a positive combination that supports artisan endeavors. And despite the Mars Retrograde signature, which could signify a delay in the actualization of creative efforts, the entire configuration indicates the potential for success. But that's not all. Venus, Jupiter and Mars also trine Pluto in Capricorn, and that's what supercharges the entire bundle. Pluto supplies the extraordinary power to tackle big plans and projects, and its presence makes possible all sorts of success.

Use this beneficent Grand Trine to visualize joy, yours or others', and don't despair if it takes more than a moment to actualize those visions. This Grand Trine is in Earth, the astrological element that persists in its endeavors until the mission is accomplished.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

ARIES It really is all about work and money, and you have a unique opportunity to turn a new financial page. Contemplate what financial health would look like and then be intentional in your endeavors.

TAURUS Bask in the brilliance of the combined light of Venus and Jupiter in your Sign, and then channel that light into all the areas of your life in need of grace, beauty, and wisdom.

GEMINI You have a rare opportunity to feel grounded, inside and out, rooted and connected in the reality of life. Should that centeredness feel elusive, take your shoes off and literally feel your feet on the earth.

CANCER Allow yourself to experience the ties that bind you to friends and family. If the lines of connection are negative, contemplate how to transform the energy. If they are positive, make them stronger.

LEO Like your fiery counterparts, Aries and Sagittarius, there are abundant opportunities to improve your career and financial situation. Be willing to do the hard work of the day-to-day, and you'll be pleased with the results.

VIRGO Taking a stand for what you believe in is not the challenge. What's difficult is finding the ground of compromise that allows others to do the same without anyone having to feel vanquished.

LIBRA Continue to anchor yourself in the truth of who you are, and you'll find the insight and strength to work through relationship issues in need of clarity and adjustment.

SCORPIO The focus is on relationships, including and most importantly your relationship with yourself. Contemplate how you can apply greater creativity and grace to all your interactions, internal and external.

SAGITTARIUS Continue your efforts to actualize your ambitions and don't let any retrograde or other obstacle interfere with your goals. Yes, it's hard work, but the results are worth it.

CAPRICORN The grunt work can wait. You have a chance to dial up a new wave of creative inspiration, so don't procrastinate by spending your time on chores.

AQUARIUS Let yourself rely on the depth of your innate creativity. Of course, there's work to do, but if you trust and use your full potential, the "work" will effortlessly turn to joy.

PISCES You can make war or love, and while the choice sounds like a no-brainer, choosing love means acknowledging and respecting your sensitivities, as well as the vulnerabilities of others. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-837-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquarianAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquarianAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 462061

The following individual is doing business as **Fictitious Village Pilates** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]

2/29, 3/07, 3/14, 3/21/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

Ying Yuming
2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 460948

The following individual is doing business as **Paranpada Associates** [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]

Paranpada Statement
2/29, 3/07, 3/14, 3/21/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 460717

[illegible]

3/20, 3/27, 3/14, 3/21/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

2/1, 2/14, 2/28, 3/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 461356

[illegible]

3/7, 3/14, 2/28, 3/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 461290

The following individual is doing business as **Integrative Healing** [illegible] Oakland, CA [illegible]

Integrative Healing
3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 462086

The following individual is doing business as **LR Angell Units Event Room** [illegible] Hayward, CA 94545 [illegible]

LR Angell Units Event Room
2/29, 3/07, 3/14, 3/21/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 461913

[illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 461708

[illegible]

3/7, 3/14, 2/28, 3/28/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 462341

The following individual is doing business as **The B Wood** [illegible]

The B Name
3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/04/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File # 462086

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible]

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible]

NOTICE OF HEARING [illegible]

3/14/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]

[illegible]

3/14/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: RG12[illegible]

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible]

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: [illegible]

NOTICE OF HEARING [illegible]

3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/2012

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

[illegible]

[illegible]

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SAVAGE LOVE

BLOOD ON THE SHEETS

Plus: how to deflect come-ons and cope with annoying partners.

By Dan Savage

Thank you for your advocacy of monogamish. (Monogamishness?) When I fell in love with my gloriously kinky and GGG wife several years ago, we were honest about our sexual desires — vast and wide-ranging — and we negotiated an arrangement that works for us. We encourage each other's outside crushes, and we both just want to be present while one of us is banging that outside crush. Your column gave us the tools we needed to talk with other potentially kinky folks. Thanks!

Anyway, on to our question: When one is staying at a hotel, what is the protocol for engaging in sheet-staining activities? For example, if a session might spread santorum, menstrual blood, female ejaculate, etc. all over the sheets, what to do? Is it better to cover the bed in towels and stain them instead? Are dirty sheets all in a day's work for the housekeeper, or should we refrain from such activities in hotel rooms? We don't want to make the housekeeping staff miserable — and we always leave a tip for the maid! — but we don't want to refrain from sex just because my wife is on her period!

Sheets Tarnished After Intense Nooky

You're welcome for monogamishamy — the correct noun form of the adjective monogamish — and I'm delighted that it's helped you and the wife negotiate successful encounters with "outside crushes," STAIN, and I trust that you and the wife strive to make sure those encounters are as rewarding for the crushes as they are for you two.

Now, about those sheets...

If you've booked a hotel room, STAIN, and it's shark week for the wife or a certain former senator routinely drops in (drops out?) when you have anal sex, there's always the option of bringing your own santorum- and/or menstrual blood-colored/stained towels from home.

But let's say you don't want to bring towels from home. Should you lay the hotel's towels down on the bed or mess up the sheets?

"Mess up the sheets, please," said the head of housekeeping at the hotel where I happened to be staying when your question arrived. (HOH agreed to speak on the condition that I not name her.) "We bleach the holy heck out of those sheets," HOH continued. "And it is easier to get stains out of sheets than towels. And sheets cost less to replace — at least ours do. ... If you want to be a total sweetheart," said HOH, "strip the bed. Pull the sheets off and leave them balled up on the floor. All the ladies know what that means, and I promise you that no one goes poking in sheets left on the floor. They toss that ball in the cart and send it straight to the laundry."

Where they bleach the hell/blood/santorum out of 'em.

Finally, STAIN, thanks for mentioning that you always leave a tip for the maid. It made me feel less alone — I always leave a tip for the maid, too — and it gives me the opportunity to encourage others to do the same.

I'm a 25-year-old straight man. One of my best buddies is gay, and I'm in gay bars with him twice a week or so. (We like to drink!) My question: What's the correct response when I get hit on by men in gay bars? If a guy comes on strong, I kind of feel bad saying, "I'm straight," because I don't want him to think I'm saying, "You're disgusting." So what's the etiquette for a straight guy in a gay bar? Is it wrong to say you have a boyfriend instead of just saying you're straight?

Not Overly Concerned Lost Unless Entity

Guys who either don't have boyfriends or do have boyfriends but are in monogamish relationships will frequently say, "I have a boyfriend!" to get rid of a guy at a bar who they don't find attractive. So be honest, NOCLUE. Finding out he never had a shot at you because you're straight will be easier on a guy's ego than having to wonder what it is you and your imaginary boyfriend didn't find attractive about him.

Now, some gay dudes will be annoyed when they discover that the guy they've invested ten whole minutes in eye-fucking isn't gay. But most will welcome your presence as proof that — forgive me — it gets better. Straight dudes hanging out in gay bars with their gay friends? Straight dudes who are secure enough in their own sexuality that they're comfortable with being viewed as a sex object by other men? Sure signs of progress, NOCLUE. That some gay dudes will have to waste a few precious minutes of their lives flirting with men they can't suckfuckrimdatemarry is a small price to pay to be reminded that we live in a less homophobic world.

I have a super-hot, considerate, caring girlfriend with a high libido with whom I share many long-term goals. The problem is that she bugs the shit out of me. She chews with her mouth open, she listens to music I dislike, and she swears at inappropriate times. I'm in my mid-thirties and not sure what I should do. Settle?

Second Thoughts

We have something in common, ST: I, too, met a guy who was super-hot and caring and considerate, a guy whose libido matched my own and whose long-term goals aligned with mine, and who just so happened to bug the shit out of me.

Here's what I did: I married that motherfucker.

My husband still bugs the shit out of me sometimes, just as I doubtless bug the shit out of him sometimes. But there's no such thing as a bug-free boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife/unicorn/gimp/whatever. LTRs are about identifying the bugs that some caring and consistent prodding can fix — like that chewing-with-her-mouth-open shit — and accepting and finally learning to ignore the bugs that no amount of prodding will ever change.

And take it from me, ST: Hot, considerate, caring, similarly libidinous, and shared long-term goals isn't a package that comes along every day. You could do a lot worse. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage.
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-0144063 Title Order No. 11-0125899 Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1151-371 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/19/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by ASHRUCIO ACUNA, AN UNMARRIED MAN, dated 04/19/2006 and recorded 4/27/2006, as Instrument No. 2006-170376, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 04/09/2012 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6363 CHRISTIE AVE #3004, EMERYVILLE, CA 946081931. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $[illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible] 03/14/2012, 03/21/2012, 03/28/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 016-1441-006 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/14/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by MABLE E. JONES, A SINGLE WOMAN, dated 08/14/2006 and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on [illegible] at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6117 & 6119 BAKER STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $[illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible]

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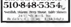
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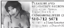
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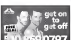
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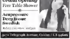
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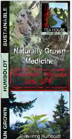
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